

# LORNE INDEPENDENT

\$2

No 185 April 2017

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## Rumpole's close encounter with a stringray in the shallows at the Pier

One of our citizens recently suffering a stingray barb in his ankle is the latest warning that danger lurks in the water around our Pier and public notices prohibiting certain activities should not be taken lightly.

The area to either side of the Pier is well-known for stingrays and over the last few months sharks have been a constant presence.

There are signs all around, warning not to jump off the Pier, not swimming under the Pier cautionary advice usually ignored by hordes of youngsters 'bombing' the water as part of their fun experience of their summer at Lorne.

A couple of weeks ago, Andrew 'Rumpole' Ramsey, kitted out in a wetsuit, entered the water to the Lorne side of the Pier to take his usual morning swim along the 'Pier to Pub' course.

There are no prohibitions to swimming in this area though caution is always advised in and round Louttit Bay where Life Guards are not patrolling.

Waist-deep, he suddenly let out an ear-piercing scream and obviously in excruciating pain managed to drag himself to the beach – luckily there were quite a number of people around and three ladies from interstate managed to comfort Andrew until the ambulance arrived.

At the Lorne Community Hospital, his leg was immersed in water "as hot as I could stand it" and it took the doctor some time before all the bits and pieces had been dug out of his ankle.

Sportive Andrew is somewhat of a legend in Lorne with his swimming, sculling on Louttit Bay and as an enthusiastic conversationalist; indeed, he is also well known on Australian snow fields as a skier and ski-club committee man.

Schussing down a white slope, he has acquired the nickname 'the Ski Rambo'.

In Lorne, he prides himself on the nick-name 'Rumpole', a reference to the popular TV series, *Rumpole of the Bailey*.

Obviously, it's hard to keep a man like that down.

Nursing a much-swollen multi-coloured foot, Andrew insisted on taking his fellow legal eagle wife Jane to dinner at a Lorne restaurant that evening, and lo and behold, who should be fellow patrons but none other than the three ladies who had helped him on the beach only hours before.

Much hilarity followed, pictures were taken ...

**Story continues on page 3**

*Andrew's words on the stingray incident posted on Facebook: How is this for serendipity? I feel well enough to go to Ipsos today after the great stingray saga, and the girls who saved me on the beach happened to be there, recognised me, and joined in the celebration of their rescue. They were from Brisbane and Perth and only in Lorne for a few days! They're welcome back any time.*



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The Lorne Independent Inc. is produced on a non-profit voluntary basis and, as a newsletter, seeks to give in its pages open access to the community. It is important to note, however, that opinions expressed by authors of articles are their own.

Advertising and publicity for community events is free, and all other contributions are most welcome. Supplied copy and pictures must bear the name and address of the author and/or organisation.

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From page one:  
Rumpole and his stingray  
adventure



The water to either side of the Pier is quite shallow and an obvious danger to swimmers because of rock formations and an abundance of seaweed.

A great area for recreational fishing, this activity has a tendency to attract sharks.

(Australian naturalist and television personality Steve Irwin died on 4 September 2006 after being pierced in the chest by a stingray barb while filming an underwater documentary).

- Jo Vondra



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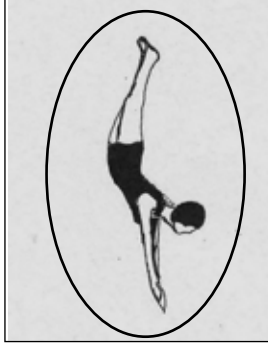
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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

Lorne Independent 3

# The Louttit Loop



*When the 'fish co-op' closed we so missed the eclectic team working there, the availability of fish so close to its source (hopefully) and the daily weird, huge sea creature hanging outside - fascinating generations of kids. Rumours of Christos Raskatos being crook circulated the little town. And this man who was born in Nikki, a tiny town on the Greek side of Macedonia, lost his battle mid-March. Always a poet, he was*

*supposed to have stated: "I'll take my pen, my pad and my bottle and all the love. The malice I'll leave behind." Our sympathies to the entire family and his close mates in Lorne.*

Years ago Lorne was a town rallying to fight developments which seemed excessive and unnecessary. The Cumberland was the first big fight and we lost. Erskine House was built on crown land, but that didn't stop a mega development. Once again locals were ignored. Ron Bassett, who recently died in a very sad and weird set of circumstances, was one of the Erskine House developers. Remember how he used to land his helicopter on the Erskine Paddock with locals glaring at him? We send sincere sympathies to his wife and five kids and to his many mates in Lorne.

*We also farewell another colourful Lorne identity. "Little Charlie" has died. A regular at the Aquatic Club he not only bent an elbow, but was always finding maintenance or painting jobs needing attention. He spent more hours than there are in a day fishing from our pier! Tight lines Little Charlie!*

Our CFA has had and still has many fathers and sons among their ranks. Now we are lucky enough to have a mother and daughter saluting. Energetic Suzanne Deviny and daughter Beth are very active new members. On her first attendance at a recent fire on a steep slope in the Otways, Beth even quickly finished off a snake which had felt the brunt of the flames.

*Anyone thinking of knocking our Foodworks Supermarket should have another think! Not only about how far the goods have travelled to fill your pantry, fridge or tummy, but how damned generous owner John is to this community. History bears witness to the fact he has never knocked back a request for a donation, even if it's for a bundle of plastic bags for the Op Shop. On the last long weekend he excelled himself by supplying snags (two 20kg boxes), onions, sauce, serviettes, bread etc etc to the CFA Barbie in his carpark, AND to the sunset Barbie at the Aquatic Club to start the ball rolling for the Sculpture exhibition next year. Each event raised round \$2,000 thanks to great volunteers and to Foodworks John!!!*

It's not funny when our top District Nurse gets tailgated and tooted while driving sedately and safely up William Street BY AN IMPATIENT LOCAL! Hope you're in good health pal because we know who you are!

*There are 60 hairpin bends on the Deans Marsh Road! Not even a local who knows the road inside out would attempt to travel this road all the way at the allowed 80 kph. A big push for lowered speed limits and some solution to the horrific push bike problem needs to succeed before there is a dreadful accident. Register your support for the campaign with Juliet 0419 151961 or Jill on 0407338904.*

We Lornites have a fit when we see our rubbish trucks emptying rubbish bins and recycling bins into the same truck.

Yet this was how it was at the recent Grand Prix. Supposedly for more efficient recycling. And for the two hundredth time – no plastic bags of bottles (or of any sort at all) in yellow top recycling bins! How many times do we have to ask you? ("Sorry Mum".)

*And while on the bin subject. Thanks to our amazing Men's Shed team for the fantastic locks they are fitting to all our bins. They work a treat – providing folk read the sticker on the lid and actually activate the lock when they put the bins out in the street. Teams of three cockatoos have been seen trying to open locked bins. Teams of dog walking neighbours have been seen testing that lids are locked when owners have returned to wherever. Should see their gobsmacked astounded facial expressions as they simply lock them!*

The Good Weekend magazine mentioned a poor bloke who got bitten on the bum by a wasp. He wrestled his way out of his shorts and ground it to death with his boots. And then the pain hit! Luckily his dear wife knew what the antidote for a wasp sting is – of course she did! This needs to be shared- a decent baste with Balsamic Vinegar! That's one ladiadah wife. Any old vinegar will do the job once the sting has been removed!

*A big impromptu local gathering at the Scotchman's Hill barbeque area farewellled "lovely" Janine Hutt who's leaving Lorne to enjoy her brand new grand-daughter Chloe and offer support to her daughter in Melbourne.*

Sadly we have are missing another pampered dog! Helen Stribling's faded brown lab. Jayda has passed on. Quite the jet setter, she flew several times to Broome with Helen to visit family there.

*But Helen is now walking her daughter's black lab. as the family has been transferred to Canada for a year!*

Swimmers reckon the little blue ringed octopus known commonly as stingers have been moving down the East Coast even faster than the dreaded cane toads. March was so very warm that they were even seen in our slightly warmer waters. Vinegar is still the best antidote for a sting but a gentle rinse with sea water and a scrape with a credit card will remove stings. Hot water can help relieve pain.

*Great to see GORCC (one supposes) has constructed a nice wooden fence to conceal upmarket 'campers' emptying their toilet contents in the previously exposed dump spot on the top camping ground.*

Well done to Bryce at Lorne Central restaurant (and meeting place) under the Cumberland and to Mireeka Hogan for organizing a Lorne gig for the World's Greatest Shave (or colour) to raise much needed \$\$ to fight Leukaemia. Thirty five people a day are diagnosed with this terrible blood cancer and quite a few of them have been from our area – and quite a few of them we miss most dreadfully. So well done!

*The Lorne Kindergarten parents and precious staff have cleverly identified a piece of unused and almost unusable land (actually a space!) at the rear of their premises. After plenty of work they are starting to develop it into a fairly exciting and adventurous play area. Of course an amazing team of generous professionals and tradies are giving time and goods as is the Lorne way! Thanks to all of you and we will name names when the job is done!*

Thanks to Roz Ireland for giving Loutitt Loop a complimentary rap on Lorne's Community Noticeboard on Facebook regarding the excellent skills and energy of Miguel at The Pier Restaurant.

.....Lillian

## **LorneCARE News**

- caring for our environment

Joining in a LorneCare working bee is a practical way of learning about Lorne's magical environment and showing your love for it.

This month we expect to be working along the beautiful Lorne foreshore starting at:

**10am on Sunday, April 23**

For the exact location see the Community Notice board outside the Post Office during the previous week. A barbeque will follow the working bee at about 12.30pm. Visitors and new starters will be especially welcome.

**For more information about LorneCare contact:**

**Alain Purnell Tel: 5289 2906**

**Mobile: 0417 031 905**

**Michael Callanan**

**Mobile: 0408 891 886**

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### **Goodbye Old Friend**

When Eos opened the morning  
There was a tear in her eye knowing he had died.  
He was her heartache  
She had seen him "Lost in Love in Lorne" many times  
Until there was Tom and The Goddess, who stayed with  
him,  
Fortifying him – but finally death ate him away.

Christos was a friend of JV & me  
We tramped ideals to make a better world,  
History, philosophy, music, poetry  
Sometimes while he was filleting fish  
Mostly at the staff table of the Pier Restaurant  
With Sammy, Angelo, Jimmy Vass.

What do we do now?  
Do we think of Christos  
His big frame facing Louttit Bay, arms raised, legs apart  
Screaming to Poseidon to stop his bullshit?  
Or of a man, perhaps like any other,  
Who faced the inevitable?

Hadyn Rickey

## **Lorne Independent**

There was a very beautiful painting of the Madonna, done in the tradition of the Greek orthodox church, up on the wall at the Fisheries where Christos had his order book and worked the telephone.

Not that Christos was that religious, but the painting must have given him some comfort by its presence.

In dealing with the vicissitudes of daily life, he was more inclined to seek inspiration from ancient Greek mythology – the pranks and mischief, the beauty and ugliness of those mythological entities existed for him almost as a sort of parallel world to our own modern life.

Christos loved poetry and his most personal lines reflected his despair and happiness, his anger and humour, often his sheer joy at just being alive.

It was his great oratorical skills that made his poetry; reading his poems was never as dramatic as hearing his deep, loud voice boom out his personal imagery of modern dodgy lawyers and crooked gods, the beauty of dawn, pimps, political comments, personal anguish of broken love affairs, Zeus, 'Bamboo' the giant shark that lived off Aireys Inlet ... all of his many characters, both modern and ancient stuffed into a huge bag of poetry, well stirred and shaken.

Christos was born on the Greek side of Macedonia and came to Australia with his family as a small child; he never lost his accent and indeed, leaned heavily on his duality of language and culture.

He came to Lorne in the mid-1970s and at first worked the doors at the Grand Pacific, with brother Billy always close at his side.

Because of family circumstance, he took on the role of family head quite early and he formed a close relationship with Henry Love, then head of the Lorne Fishing Co-operative; it got him away from 'bouncer' duties.

When the fishing industry finally left town, the 'Co-operative' was turned into a processing plant and most importantly, a retail outlet.

It became a successful business with brother Billy and Julie - a family concern.

It's where the whole town went for their seafood at Christmas time, at Easter and for those special occasions in-between.

Generous, charming, entertaining, a born showman and great at sales, witty and certainly astute when it came to judging character, men and women loved Christos and were ardent followers of his poetry which he used to display on the blackboard outside the shop.

Highly successful in his fish processing operations, he at one stage had four retail outlets within the city of Geelong but for obvious reasons they never achieved the success of the Lorne operation.

What was missing was the powerful figure of Christos, quoting poetry, issuing advice on how to cook fish "Dusted in flower, Madam, then olive oil, onto the plate ... and don't forget the bottle of cold champagne. Here, I'll put in a couple of stolen lemons."

These "stolen lemons" and the hot chillies came from his mother's garden in West Geelong.

*Servus alter Freund.*

I know you've got the coin for the Tillerman to cross the River Styx, but just keep in mind the price might have gone up ...

**- Jo Vondra**



## FOR SALE

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### BRING ONE, BRING ALL!

This spacious family holiday home is perfectly positioned offering an effortless stroll into the heart of Lorne. Situated on a flat 500 sqm allotment. Upstairs comprises three bedrooms, one bathroom, open plan kitchen dining lounge area which opens onto the expansive deck, with a lovely treed outlook. Downstairs features a two bedroom, one bathroom self-contained area with separate lounge and galley style kitchenette. Ample storage for all the beach gear and toys and an abundance of off street parking completes the package.

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*From the team at  
Great Ocean Road Real Estate*

## HOLIDAY RENTALS

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● 2bdm, 1bath \$370 p/w

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● 2bdm, 1bath \$370 p/w

2/15 Hopetoun Terrace, Lorne

● 4bdm, 2.5bath \$600 p/w

2/2-15 Hopetoun Terrace, Lorne

● 2bdm, 2bath \$400 p/w

18 Wallace Street, Lorne

● 4bdm, 3bath \$550 p/w

**St Cuthbert's Church -  
10am, Sunday, April 23**

Celebrate 125 years of witness to the community of Lorne and surrounds. Join us in a service of praise and thanksgiving.

Originally, a Presbyterian Church, St Cuthbert's was designed and built by Mr Andrew Sangaer, a man who had to learn his trade as a cabinet maker in Bath, Somerset.

The beautiful interior is lined with Baltic knotty pine. It was the custom of ships coming to Australia for wood and wheat around the 1890's to bring timber as ballast.

The Presbyterian Church and Uniting Church union took place in 1977 and in 2012 the Lorne Anglican Church and the Uniting Church joined into one congregation.

RSVP (for catering) David Walker  
0409 141 755

**VALE CHRISTOS**

Aphrodite, Eros weep,  
Weep tears for one who loved  
And wept.

Poseidon, weep,  
Weep tears for one who loved  
Your deep blue seas.

The tide has ebbed.  
Our sand lies bare.

But come, our Muse, take up his pen

And through my hand keep live his power.  
His hour has come,

But still the hero's defiance lives,  
Fights on to trump his joy of life,

The joy of heart, of mind, of myth.

Olympus' gods, weep nectar tears and celebrate the life

Of one who aspired to mount your  
mystic heights.

Raise cups of gold and take him home.

- GJW

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## News from our Councillor for the Lorne Ward

### Deans Marsh Festival

Congratulations to the Deans Marsh community and especially the dedicated group of volunteers and organisers who worked tirelessly to ensure this years Deans Marsh festival was a fantastic success. I had the honour to be one of the dog judges something that I found as stressful as sitting in Council. Everyone loves their dog !

Well done Deans Marsh.

### Surf Coast Youth Awards 2017

Nominations are open for the Surf Coast Youth Awards 2017. The annual awards recognise the contributions and talent of Surf Coast people aged between 12 and 25. There are four categories:

- Leadership
- Music
- Sports
- Community citizenship

Nominations for the awards close Monday 17 April at 5pm. [Nominate now](#) or visit Surf Coast website and follow the link Community Development.

### The Queen's Baton Relay

Do you know a local legend? [Nominate them to take part in the Queen's Baton Relay.](#)

Torquay will be one of the towns included on the global Queen's Baton Relay route in the lead up to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Shire residents are invited to nominate relay participants. It could be a local sports star, a much loved local, a talented artist or a dedicated community leader.

The Relay will start in Australia on 25 December 2017. The specific Torquay route will be announced later this year.

Nominations for baton bearers close 15 May 2017 and will be announced in October 2017.

### Stribling Reserve master plan – Draft now on Public Exhibition

Recently the Shire initiated a project to develop a new, updated master plan for Stribling Reserve, Lorne. Stribling Reserve is a much valued facility in the heart of Lorne. It is over 14 years since the last master plan was produced.

The draft master plan is now on public exhibition and the Shire is seeking your feedback. As at the outset of the project, the Shire wants to ensure that as many members of the Lorne Community as possible have the opportunity to provide input.

The master plan and related documents can be viewed at <http://www.surfcoastconversations.com.au/stribling-reserve-masterplan>.

There is also an opportunity to provide feedback in person to representatives of the project team at an upcoming home fixture for the Lorne Football Netball Club.

Representatives will be available to discuss the plan in the pavilion between 12:00pm and 3:00pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2017.

### Lorne Football & Netball Club

The football/netball session is well and truly upon us.

The Lorne Football and Netball Club play their first games of the session at Lorne next Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Footballers and Netballers have been taking their pre-session training very seriously and have played in some great preseason matches over the past few weeks.

Our annual blockbuster games against Birregurra will be held on Easter Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> April for the Mark Trickey Memorial Cup.

See you there for a great day !!!

Cr Clive Goldsworthy,

Lorne Ward,

0400 756 854

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# CHRISTOS RASKATOS

4.12.1950 - 15.3.2017 - Aged 66

Our beloved poet has crossed the river

**I Am Still Here** - *for Christos*

My sails are set  
My boat loaded with wine and provisions  
The sea is my home  
Between here and there  
Like Ulysses, I was born for this  
My ancestors prepared me

I set sail into the golden glow of the setting Sun  
Past the last light of the Lorne pier  
Across the foaming waves  
Past the laughing fishes  
To Nikki  
Into the mythology of my ancestors

I am still here  
I am forever here  
Just beyond the horizon  
Fishing for words

*by Shane Howard*  
March 2017



*'I'll take my pen and  
my pad and my bottle  
and all the love -  
the malice  
I'll leave behind.'  
-Christos*

In honour of Christos an annual Christos Raskatos memorial poetry prize is being established.

(for more info contact Ian Lovell - [imlovel152@gmail.com](mailto:imlovel152@gmail.com))

Painting by Sacha John Meier at Tastes Lifestyle 03 52891533

# Sportsbriefs with John Ford

## Football is Back!

The Colac and District Football Netball League season starts on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The opening round sees Lorne playing Colac Imperials at Lorne's Stribling Reserve. The Dolphins football and netball teams will be in action, with junior grades being played during the morning and the seniors facing off at 2.00pm.

I urge supporters to be at the ground for these opening round matches as the atmosphere for the season opening is not to be missed. The surface of the football ground is in very good condition, especially after the 100mm of rain that Lorne received in a 36 hour period last week. I enjoy watching from the grassy bank above the coach's box where the elevated view is outstanding, and this is very near the netball courts to witness all their action.

To really support your club there are many membership options available, including family and seniors categories. The Club always need volunteers on match days and if you feel that you have a couple of hours to spare on match days then you could contact Ross Umbers on 0412 114 314. Netball enquiries, including for playing, should be directed to Carly on 0427 134 529.

Congratulations to Oscar Balderas who has been selected in the Geelong Falcons Under 16 squad. The team plays against a group of country and metropolitan Melbourne squads and we wish him every success.

## Lorne Bowls Club Grand Final

The Lorne Bowls Club will be competing in a Grand Final on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April and we hope that they will be successful. Refer Merna Smith's article below:

Pennant bowling season will be ending soon with the playing of the Grand Final on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. Venue unknown at the present time. If you plan on attending please telephone the Bowls Club for details. 52891462

Lorne Division 2 played well all season. Divisions 3 and 4 (a and b) started well but because of members being unwell and players unavailable at times many games were forfeited.

The semi final between Lorne and Colac City was very exciting. For those who know nothing about how bowls games are scored, each team has a board at the end of their rink showing their score. During finals there is a Master Board showing the overall score.

On the day of the semi final the Board showed Lorne up by one point, then down by four points, then up by three and then down by two, continuing on all afternoon. Very nerve wracking.

On the last end, we waited, and waited, at last the final score went up. LORNE 95 - COLAC CITY 92.

Lorne had won. Well done Lorne.

The in-house competitions have almost been completed and the winners will be named in the next edition of the Independent.

Practice games have been held most Thursday afternoons from 4.30pm but because of the football season starting the practice games will be held on a Wednesday afternoon, same time.

The next monthly Triples game will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> April at 11am. See notice boards to enter.

Hope to see you at the Grand Final.

**Merna Smith**

Come and have some fun at the Lorne Bowls Club, April 20 at 1pm. Meet our friendly group of ladies for a social afternoon of bowling and afternoon tea.

You will experience a warm welcome and the fun of bowling with our ladies and enjoy the wonderful amenities available at our club. The bar will be open.

We extend this invitation to all women in our community, especially women from other sporting clubs...All are welcome....**Phone Helga Lewis. 0407800081 Jennifer Dullo. 0438377628. Marilyn McKenzie . 0427892662**

## Ladies Golf

How gorgeous are our autumn days in Lorne? This time of year is perfect for playing golf. The course is looking terrific and the ball still has plenty of run.

The ladies have been very active playing in the Otway Pennant. We did not win but I am so pleased to see the enthusiasm and camaraderie when visiting the various other clubs involved. Thank you to all the ladies who played in the Pennant team. Congratulations to Anglesea for winning the Otway Pennant this year.

The pop up golf shop was very successful over the March long weekend. It certainly created a buzz around the club.

The ladies golf section held a fun guest day at the end of last month. We played a 9 hole Ambrose. We had ladies playing of all levels and the morning was enjoyed by the regulars and their guests.

Golf lessons: Jason Kraan from Anglesea Golf Club will be coming to Lorne Country Club for the next 4 weeks commencing 27 March. Jason will be running a group lesson at 11 am. He is also available for private lessons either prior to 11 am or after. Please contact Lesley Goldsworthy for further information on 0437028169. We are hoping to continue with the clinics, depending on demand.

If you would like to join our friendly Tuesday morning Ladies Day please contact Lesley Goldsworthy 0437028169 or Wendy Hutchison 0419878089. We run a 9 hole or 18 hole competition and all levels of players are very welcome. Players arrive at 8.30 am to commence at 9 am sharp.

## Happy hitting

**Lesley Goldsworthy**

**Lady President**

## Gold for Lorne's Lydia

Lydia Lassila has won the World Cup aerial skiing gold medal in Moscow on 5<sup>th</sup> March! In the World Championships that followed in Spain, Lydia was placed third, but the gold medal in Moscow was a wonderful achievement. This was the third time that Lydia has won a World Cup gold medal, to add to her Olympic Gold Medal from the 2010 Winter Olympics. What a great career for Lydia who first competed in the 2002 Winter Olympics. Lydia and husband Lauri now have two children and live in Lorne when they are not on the competition trail.

## Easter Tennis Tournament

Lorne Country Club will be holding its annual Easter Tennis Tournament on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April. The day will start at 9.00am and all players will play four sets of mixed tennis. The format is that partners are drawn on the day and so single entries are welcome. Entrants will get to play with and against a range of players in a 'not too serious' tennis tournament. Morning tea will be provided and prizes will be awarded at around 1.00pm. Entry fee for this fun day is \$20. For more details please contact John Ford on 0418 372 709, or Alvis Svikers on 0400 864 588.

**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](mailto:byswerdi2@bigpond.com)**

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Attention Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, and Brothers etc who are involved with young children. Come and share your "small talk," experiences and expertise.**

**Potentially meetings to be once a month on a Sunday morning over coffee.**

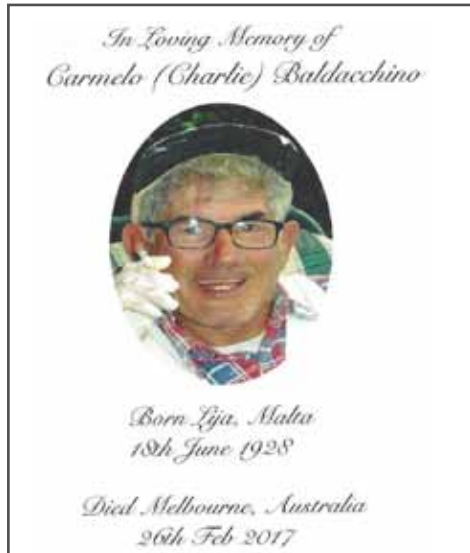
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**Email Michael Dolan**

**[lorne\\_con@hotmail.com](mailto:lorne_con@hotmail.com)**



## News from the Lorne Angling and Aquatic Club



### Little Charlie "The Maltese Fisherman"

Charlie frequented Lorne most weekends starting in the late 1980's.

He fished the Lorne pier 24hrs a day and loved to talk to one and all.

Sleeping in and under the barracouta boats on the pier was his second home. His passion for fishing started in Malta where he worked on large commercial vessels. Prior to coming to Lorne, he and his mates fished the Point Lonsdale pier for calamari and shark.

Fishing from the old wooden pile Lorne pier provided Little Charlie with great catches of salmon, couta, trevally and grass whiting. The new concrete pier was never as rewarding.

A member of the LAAC for close to 20 years, Charlie was awarded Club Person of the Year in 2013 for his tireless work around the club. Charlie will be fondly remembered and greatly missed, RIP.

### Committee Notes

- A timely reminder for those who have not yet paid their membership. Single \$35 and Family \$50 – this is now overdue and your membership will be suspended after Easter.
- Burglary Wash up – our Insurance assessor has requested documentation to substantiate some of our claim. This will be done asap. Final figures will be presented later.
- The LAAC has been requested to supply written confirmation that it is committed to pay for its new building. A letter has been drafted and forwarded to our land manager GORCC stating "the LAAC

commits a minimum of \$500,000 to the new LAAC building which must include fish cleaning area and boat washdown."

- The LAAC is a Gold Sponsor for the Murray to Moynce fund raiser for the Lorne Hospital -\$750.

### Fishing Competitions

Major Comp No 2. Sponsors – Lorne Breakdown & Towing

After a week of calm seas, Mother Nature showed her true colors to provide strong east – nth easterly seas for our competition day. Thirty fisherpersons tested their skills and eleven fish were weighed in.

Senior winner – Harley Davies – bream. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Alison Manfreda – salmon. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brett Stewart – KG whiting  
Junior winner – Daisy Lodge – mullet. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Quinn Lodge – mullet. NPG award – Michael Causon

Great to see the girls among the winners!!!

Currently, the waters off Lorne are teeming with thousands of Blue Fin Tuna. All reports claim that the majority of fish are around 15 kg.

### Coming Events

1. School holidays begin on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are hoping for successful trading during this time. Easter fishing competition on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Peter Ryan & Associates.
2. The courtesy bus will be operating from Good Friday until Easter Monday. Music will be provided from 4.00 pm on Easter Sunday.

### Clean Up Australia Day

Once again the L.A.A.C. participated in the Clean Up Australia Day which was on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March. The target areas were the car parks from Big Hill to Lorne. Nine members collected a trailer load of rubbish in 2 hours. The rubbish was mainly paper and plastics. Volunteers then enjoyed a cup of Jason's great coffee. There is a definite need for bins at the two major car parks on Big Hill as rubbish already litters these two iconic lookout areas, only two weeks later. Thanks to all those that participated! - Barry Hayward

### Graeme Norton Commodore

### **New four-strain flu vaccine will be available in April.**

Influenza vaccines can change from year to year as new strains of influenza virus appear. This is one reason vaccination against influenza is given every year.

Influenza is estimated to be responsible for more than 5,000 hospitalisations and almost 170 deaths in Australia each year.

Hopefully we see these statistics fall in 2017, so the best way to achieve this is to ensure that people in the 'high risk' category receive their annual flu vaccine.

Those at increased risk of severe influenza and its complications include; people aged over 65 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months to five years and older than 15 years, pregnant women and someone with a medical condition, such as severe asthma, diabetes or heart disease.

The Australian Government has secured a supply of new vaccines which protect against four strains of influenza virus for the 2017 season.

The new vaccines will be made available from mid-April to at-risk groups through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and will also be available on the private market (through your GP clinic).

The 2017 quadrivalent influenza vaccines will cover two A strains of influenza (Michigan and Hong Kong) and two B strains of influenza (Brisbane and Phuket), as recommended by the World Health Organization.

Three different types of influenza viruses infect humans: influenza A, B and C. Only influenza A and B cause major outbreaks and severe disease, and that is why A and B types are included in seasonal influenza vaccines.

Influenza spreads from person to person through the air by coughing or sneezing, or by direct contact with the virus on hard surfaces or people's hands. The flu usually differs from a cold as symptoms develop suddenly, and can lead to complications such as chest infections and pneumonia.

Symptoms of the flu hit very quickly and may last for several weeks. A bout of the flu typically follows this pattern:

- Days 1–3: Sudden appearance of fever, headache, muscle pain and weakness, dry cough, sore throat and sometimes a stuffy nose.
- Day 4: Fever and muscle aches decrease. Hoarse, dry or sore throat, cough and possible mild chest discomfort become more noticeable. You may feel tired or flat.
- Day 8: Symptoms decrease. Cough and tiredness may last one to two weeks or more.

The main tips to remember when you have the flu is stay at home and rest, plus drink plenty of fluids and take some mild



**Dr David Mullen**

pain relief to such as paracetamol to ease muscle pain and bring down your fever (unless your doctor says otherwise).

Most people who are generally healthy won't need to see their doctor for the flu, however if you have difficulty breathing, chest pain, sudden dizziness, confusion, severe vomiting or develop a fever with a rash, then seek immediate medical attention.

For further information, please contact the Lorne Medical Centre on 5289 4333.

**Dr David Mullen**

## Lorne Community Hospital

We would love to have your views  
Lorne Community Hospital is  
expanding its community care program  
in response to the Commonwealth aged  
care reforms

You're invited to a community consultation  
session to discuss:

What do you see as the important element of  
support to be effectively cared for at home?  
From past experiences what factors have  
helped or hindered effective services at home?

Thursday April 6 at 5-6.30pm  
Senior Citizens Centre, Lorne  
RSVP by April 5 on 5289 4386



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# The Big Apple



Gum trees were not unknown to early garden designers but they were pretty much exclusively confined to the flowering gum and lemon scented gums although I found *Eucalyptus globulus* – our very own blue gum - listed in a 1889 Californian plant catalogue. *Grevillea robusta* (silky oak) was also in there but when I found spiraea, guava and *arbutus unedo*, also known as Irish Strawberry tree, I knew I was onto something. I was trying to date the installation of the garden at *Varna* in Smith Street which contained the last three mentioned plants as remnants of the original planting. Since the house was built in 1888 by Charles Beal of Warncoort, clearly any plants had to post-date it. Typical gardens of the era might include coral trees, Moreton Bay figs, peppercorns and oaks. There would always be conifers too. The plants at Fortuna Lodge across the road on the top side of Smith Street probably would not have these in the design since it was built in the 1920s and plant selection, like most things, is subject to trends. First the house, then the garden.

But who was responsible for laying out the original garden at *Varna*? According to the Winchelsea Historical Society it was Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. The Baron was a choleric and irascible gent who initiated the establishment of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in the 1850s. He was replaced as director by the city fathers because of his overly scientific approach and the post went to William Guilfoyle who was a garden designer rather than a purist. Guilfoyle went on to design the Carlton Gardens and those at Government House and Kings Domain in Melbourne. He kicked into top gear then and went on to contribute to the botanic gardens at Warrnambool, Horsham, Hamilton, Koroit and Camperdown during the 1880s. A number of private gardens were designed during this period including Mooleric and Turkeith, both near Birregurra and he was

later back in the Western District to contribute to the Colac Botanic Gardens in 1910. I am of the opinion therefore that it was Guilfoyle who was the designer at *Varna* rather than the baron who was more of a scientist and explorer than a landscaper. Incidentally, it was von Mueller who introduced blue gums to California and which then appeared in the aforementioned catalogue.

In the gardens at *Portland* recently I found the typical choices made in the selection of the original trees of the day. This is reflected in the interest at the time of the plants of New Zealand and include a New Zealand Olive. Conifers also have survived, probably since the gardens were laid out in 1858, making it the state's second oldest botanic garden. *Varna* will never appear on any historical record because the original design has suffered from subdivision. When it was laid out the property entrance was from Mountjoy Parade and the gardens were much more extensive. A tree in the grounds I tried to preserve was an unusual apple tree. It was said to have been planted from a seed brought back from the Middle East after World War I and there was a photo in the old house of Annie Beal holding an apple from the tree. The apple was as big as a bowling ball. - **Doug Williams**

**Doug Williams is a retired gardener and landscape contractor who still makes himself available for consultations and specialised work as well as continuing his Mobile Nursery. 0418 522 011**

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## This and that

April in Lorne – a month that gives us respite from the physical events of summer – no cycling, no marathons, just a chance to draw breath and enjoy the refreshment of more cultural pursuits.

On the 1 – 2 April at 3pm QDOS is hosting that tried and true peripatetic repertory company OZACT who are going to present Shakespeare’s MACBETH. A very challenging play to present in the beautiful grounds of QDOS –still the dry stonewalling may come in very handy to simulate the dour Scottish castle keep and there may even be real ravens hovering on the battlements. Tickets and information at 52891989 or 0419330516. If you want more information re this company founded in 1996 by Bruce Widdop go to [www.ozact.com](http://www.ozact.com) .

On Sunday 2 April @ 2pm Elizabeth Hooley of Oakdene Winery will open an exhibition at QDOS featuring that ever - young painter Rimona Kedem who will be presenting her year’s works on and around Graeme Wilkie’s FLYING DUCKS. Remember when ceramic ducks were to be found flying to the ceiling in so many suburban homes? Graeme’s ducks might revive the fashion –back to the future.

We have our own tried and true annual Lions Easter Art Show from 14 – 17 April at the Senior Citizens Centre Friday – Sunday 10am – 5pm – Monday 10am – 12md. Always worth visiting for its infinite variety.

Don’t forget the Fair on the Foreshore on the 15 April in aid of the Lorne Kindergarten. It promises fresh produce and a variety of stalls.

At Eagles Nest Gallery Aireys Inlet on April 1-30, CHRIS FARRELL has an exhibition of photographs - NATURE OF THE COAST - 15% of all sales of his photographs will go to World Life Fund for Nature Australia.

A.E.



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# “Lorne is starting to show its muscles!”

- Councillor Clive Goldsworthy

A well attended lunch at the View Restaurant Lorne Hotel recently was updated on progress on the Committee for Lorne’s Achieving Lorne’s Aspiration project.

Chair Ian Stewart said a number of consultations with stake-holders such as clubs and organisations had now taken place and the Committee would work towards implementing some of the objectives identified.

He said the town was extremely lucky to have at its core a comparative large group of volunteers which are already active in creating a cohesive and vital community.

However, creating affordable housing, for both purchase and also for rental, was considered to be the Committee’s number one priority in that reasonably priced housing was essential for attracting new residents such as young families.

Affordable housing was especially relevant for the town’s large workforce, especially during the warmer months.

The luncheon heard that the Surf Coast attracted more than six million visitors annually and a stated aim was to encourage people to stay longer.

To coordinate, analyse and implement its ‘Aspirational Strategies’, the Committee has obtained the services of local Steve Atkinson, of Reos Partners. The company has a world-wide reputation for business analyses.

Ian Stewart said an important aspect of the Committee’s work was to identify and then develop specific strategies and work in close co-operation with local authorities and agencies such as the Surf Coast Shire and the Great Ocean Road Coast

Committee, and have a major input in various projects.

Kate Gillan, CEO of the Lorne Community Hospital told the meeting that in addition to its traditional services, the LCH was embracing the very latest technological developments available, such as the innovative “telehealth”.

Under this system, IT links will be established between Lorne medical practitioners and specialist services by the use of transmitted imaging and other relevant medical data, thereby allowing easier and more efficient diagnosis.

Ms Gillan also said the Hospital was in the process of

## MASTER PLAN Stribling Reserve, Lorne

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YOUR  
SAY



### Stribling Reserve is the focal point for much of the sport and recreational needs of Lorne.

Council is working in partnership with the Lorne community to create a new master plan, which will guide development of the reserve over the next decade and ensure it meets the needs of the community in future years.

The focus of the master plan is on:

- Improving amenities for spectators and players
- Staged implementation of a number of amenities
- First key priority is on improved facilities for females
- Later development will focus on potential pavilion development
- Master plan will assist in securing funding for works
- Public consultation will be undertaken for key projects.



Further information and feedback can be provided via [surfcoastconversations.com.au](http://surfcoastconversations.com.au)

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updating its aged care facilities, and making available additional medical services such as psychological consultations, optometry (in conjunction with Deakin University), massage, and at-home medical consultations for patients.

Of special focus is mental health. She said that 22 percent of people who took their own life were aged between 15 and 22.

Peter Spring, Chair of the Stribling Reserve Committee said that the Surf Coast Shire Council was now working with the Lorne community to create a new master plan.

“The new plan will guide development of the reserve over the next decades and ensure it meets the needs of the community in future years.”

He said that the last master plan for the Reserve was last developed in 2001, and that the Master Plan would reflect what the community wanted.

The new Master Plan had now been formally adopted by the SCS council but still needed feedback and comments from the general community.

“Then we can move to design and development, and take it to the next step,” Peter Spring said.

To end the meeting, Lorne Councillor Clive Goldsworthy said he was aware that other centres in the Shire were envious of the high reputation Lorne enjoyed the way it was managing its affairs.

“Lorne was showing its muscles,” he said. “Our reputation (for working as a cohesive community) is the highest in the Shire,” he added. - **JV**



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### Bargain price for Rainrider

Local home owner Marianne Margin first read our story on Wally Smith's 'People Magnet' back in September 2014 and thought the scooter Wally used to drive around town would be ideal for her mother Pat Sargeant.

Mrs Sargeant lived at Terang in Western Victorian and was starting to have problems getting around.

"My mother loved her red scooter while she was well enough to drive it," Pat said.

"It kept her warm and dry and drew many admiring and envious looks and comments from Terang locals.

She even gave a presentation at the local Probus group about it.

"Unfortunately, we have no further use for it," Marianne said.

"It is currently garaged in Terang, Western Victoria, one and a half hours from Lorne, but we would negotiate transport to Lorne for a serious buyer."

It's colour is firetruck red. Also note that the doors are removable for the warm weather months.

We paid \$10,000. Asking price \$7,000.

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# New Challenge for Lorne's Iris Walshe-Howling

Never one to stand still and mark time, Lorne's theatrical icon Iris Walshe-Howling has taken on a new task in directing the much-praised play 'The Savages of Wirramai'.

The play has had a successful run at La Mama in Melbourne a couple of years ago and on an offer to stage it at the intimate Woodbin theatre in West Geelong, Iris said that it "was just too good to refuse to direct it in this neck of the woods".

"After being approached by the playwright, Sandy Fairthorne, I submitted it to Geelong Repertory Theatre Company last year and it was selected for their 2017 season," Iris said.

"This is a challenging, beautifully written, new and original piece of quintessential Australian theatre...."

"I have a dream cast to work with. Two of the actors Philip Besancon and Lisa Berry, who participated in an open audition and were cast, have worked with me at APA and the rest are from greater Geelong.

"We have an amazing array of support people from the company to produce the show, construct our set, operate and help with technical requirements and backstage tasks and get the message out through social media and associated means.

"Melinda Chapman from APA is part of the creative team designing graphics and set for us and Surf Coast locals Steven Georgiadis and Janine McKenzie are designing sound and lighting," she said.

For those of you who have never been to the iconic Woodbin Theatre in Coronation Street West Geelong, it is a intimate little fully set up theatre space which accommodates 80 in raised seating (what a bonus).

The play is about The Savage family gathering at the family farm to celebrate a wedding anniversary on the eve of Anzac Day. The place is now dominated by wind turbines, a strip of rough land at the fag end of the Great Divide.

The unseasonable heat is giving way to a violent storm as the day's contingencies force a suppressed past into a brutal present.

It concerns the interactions of the Savage family when they gather at the family farm on the eve of Anzac Day to celebrate their parent's wedding anniversary. The family dynamics are played out in the shadow of recently installed wind turbines as a violent storm threatens.

The play is on in Geelong @ the Woodbin Theatre, 15

Coronation Street April 28 -29 7:30pm; May 4 - 6, 11-13 7:30pm and matinees April 30 & May 7 @ 2pm. Tickets available @ GPAC 52251200 or [www.ticketek.com](http://www.ticketek.com)

- A.E.

## When Shedders have lunch



**Lorne's Men's Shedders have been busy, busy, busy ...and they're nearing completion installing gravity locks on Lorne's rubbish bins.**

**The whole job is expected to be finished in a couple of months.**

**In the picture above, the Shedders are enjoying a well-earned lunch after the morning's working bee ...**

- JV

### Letter:

Dear CFA District 7 and Career Fire Fighters.

The Lorne Fire Brigade would like to thank you for the support and arranging Career Fire Fighters for the Lorne Fire Station from 26<sup>th</sup> December to the 9<sup>th</sup> January. We know this would have been a challenge and would have stretched the resources at District 7. The Brigade find it difficult to fulfil our volunteer duties during this period, as most of our members are employee's or employed in the hospitality industry.

Our members also find it very difficult to get to the station during this period because of traffic congestion, members that live in North Lorne across the Erskine River can take up to 20 minutes to get to the station. Having Career Fire Fighting staff stationed at Lorne meant that response was immediate, which is fantastic for Lorne residents and visitors.

We greatly appreciate the support from Operations Manager Mick McGuinness, Surf Coast Catchment Operations Officer Wayne Alymer and the Career Fire Fighters that came to Lorne over this period, thank you for your support of our Brigade and it's members.

Lorne is a unique town that has its challenges and one is the very high seasonal people influx to our town and the demand this has on all our emergency and community services.

Thank you once again for the support and we would welcome a crew to our station any day and we hope that the high season support can continue in the years to come.

**Frazer Buckle  
Captain -  
Lorne Urban Fire Brigade**



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# When the holiday hordes hit Lorne

## *“Sharing my porridge was the last straw!”*

Since coming to live at Lorne in 2006, I have had a regular routine of a long walk with my dog on the beach, an exercise routine at the Surf Club Gym, pick up a newspaper and read it while having a coffee at my favourite cafe. Because I hit the beach shortly after daybreak I don't see many people, and in fact it is good to pass someone and wish them “Good Morning”.

All this changes after Boxing Day when the town's population balloons especially during the Fall's Festival and the Pier to Pub.

The change is dramatic. This morning I drove down to the Little Stony Creek car park which I have to myself for over three hundred mornings of the year. But this morning as I arrived I noted two campervans, two caravans, six cars and a motorbike where I normally park. There was one tight car park left at the end so I drove my old farm ute in very carefully, and squeeze out my door hoping not to bump the new Audi next to me.

## *The hordes have taken over “my car park!”*

I walked onto the beach and looked both ways. To my right I counted ten people and what looked like five or six dogs spread out doing all manner of things. So I looked to my left. Only four people and four dogs. I walked to the left as that appeared less crowded.

## *The hordes have taken over “my beach!”*

After the walk we drove down to the Surf Club. The car park was almost full. People use cars as their beach boxes. They load up the second car with beach chairs, towels, tents, eskies, food etc and park it very early then come back later in the day and all their gear is waiting for them.

There were several cars parked behind the Surf Club where I usually park so I had to find a park further along.

## *The hordes have taken over “my car park!”*

The picnic table I use for some exercises was covered and surrounded by rubbish obviously from a big party the night before.

## *The hordes have taken over “my picnic table!”*

I have seen few people in the gym at this time of the morning since this time last year. I walked in and the exercise bike I like using was already spinning with a young lad exercising on it. I turned to the three rowing machines. Admittedly one is not being used, but there were a couple of lads on the two good ones, and the third is a bit antiquated. I turned to the fountain for a drink of water, but there was a tall, athletic girl drinking from it. The gym was busy.

## *The hordes have taken over “my gym!”*

After leaving the gym I drove up the street and parked quite close to the paper shop which was lucky, but I had to get in a queue to pay for my paper.

## *The hordes have taken over “my newspaper shop!”*

Now for a dose of caffeine. I usually park in front of my favourite cafe so my dog can keep an eye on me through the window, but I had to park further up the street. I walked back to the cafe, ordered my coffee and turned to the window table I always sit at. Too late, a couple were already there.

## *The hordes have taken over “my cafe and car park!”*

I drove home glad to be out of the thick of things. I pulled into our drive and realized I would have to park in the street as the B & B guests had parked in my usual spot.

## *The hordes have taken over “my car port!”*

I walked into the privacy of our home and headed for the bathroom. My wife told me not to go there as our son was using our shower.

## *The hordes have taken over “my bathroom!”*

At least I had had my porridge nicely cooking whilst I was out. I thought I would be able to sit down quietly and enjoy my breakfast without any interference.

Just as I was pouring my porridge into a bowl, my son came out of the bathroom, sniffed the air, and told me he loves porridge. “Have you got enough to share Dad?”

## *Sharing my porridge was the last straw!*

In spite of the above, Lorne is a great and exciting place to be, especially when its buzzing, and buzz it does at holiday time! - Gary Fenton

## **Early morning Beach surprise**

I have walked on the beach at Lorne most early mornings for the past ten or so years. Recently, I met a young lad, only ten or eleven years old, building a sculpture of a fish. He had spent the previous two days gathering driftwood and bringing it back to the site. It was about six or seven meters long, three meters wide and framed up to about my knee. It was truly a beautiful artistic work.

I asked the lad if his folks knew where he was at this time of day and his answer was, “Possibly not, but I have been laying in bed wide awake for two hours and I just couldn't wait to get back to finish it”.

He explained the rush to get it finished was because he was aware the tide in two days time would come in high enough to wash the sculpture away.

I watched him methodically working and chatted to him for a while. In some ways it's a pity this art work was not up at the main beach where more people would have viewed and appreciate this clever young lads work.

I returned later with my camera hoping to get a photo of the fish with the artist at work. There was no one to be seen.

Perhaps he had slipped home for breakfast!

- Gary Fenton



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**Write a letter to the**  
**editor**  
**Lorne Independent**  
**Po Box 213**  
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## Ronald Charles Bassett

27 November 1950 - 14 March 2017

Life long lover of Lorne, Ron Bassett was the much loved son of Len and Phyllis. He spent his boyhood summers at Lorne where he developed a passion for surfing and swimming that lasted all his life. Educated at Trinity Grammar and the University of Melbourne, he graduated with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Engineering. In his early career he gained valuable experience in development and finance with the Pratt business conglomerates. In the 1980's he moved from Melbourne to Adelaide where he established his own investment and development company with Michael Robertson and David Ciracovitch, BCR Asset Management. This company became a manager of a significant superannuation fund account. With wide discretionary powers of investment, BCR undertook ventures in several private equity projects. Three such projects were on Crown Leasehold land, Mt Hotham & Falls Creek Alpine Resorts, Luna Park and Erskine House at Lorne. These were all places that had featured in Ron's recreational past.

At the invitation of Colin Hackworth, the then CEO of Ski Tows Mt Hotham, BCR financed a management buyout of the somewhat under developed lift company in 1995. The next 10 years saw much needed development of a comprehensive upgrade of the lift system, snow making, accommodation, the acquisition of the Falls Creek Lift Company and the undeveloped freehold land at Dinner Plain, a helicopter service between Falls and Hotham, the construction of an airport at Horse Hair Plain as well as co-operative ventures with the Resort Management Boards to improve access, grid power, sewerage treatment and environmental management. Ron was pivotal in bringing Mt Hotham Alpine Resort from being a sleepy backwater to one of Australasia's finest resorts.

The development Crown Land at Mt Hotham and Falls Creek required close community consultation. The same applied to the Crown Land upon which Luna Park and Erskine House were built. Friends of Luna Park and Friends of Erskine House had sceptical views of what changes a developer would make to places they loved. Ron Bassett also loved these places, but he also understood that if they were to survive into the future they needed to provide a return for those who invested capital to sustain them. Rob Martin, who acquired the lease of Erskine needed capital for his vision of the future. He had known Ron from Mt Hotham where Rob was a ski patroller, and invited Ron to invest in Erskine. Together they engaged



in the planning process and its attendant consultation. Ron was the principal architect of the compromise which resulted in the successful completion of the project.

Ron's engagement with the Lorne community was particularly strong with the Surf Life Saving Club, of which he was made a life member. Had he lived another year he would have undoubtedly completed his 30th Pier to Pub swim, to become one of the few 30 time members of the Shark Bait Club. He was also a keen board surfer and could be seen on long and short boards from Aireys to Apollo Bay all year round. At cricket he was a more than useful off spin bowler and middle order

bat. He was right in saying that he would never live to see another premiership by his beloved Demons. He was also a fine tennis player, and won some senior tournaments at Kooyong Tennis Club. He was a keen golfer, and loved a round with his mates on the challenging hills of the Lorne Country Club.

Over his years of engagement with Lorne Ron rented, renovated, built and owned many houses in Lorne including in Hall Street, Mountjoy Parade and Otway Street. In about 2007 Ron commenced a development of a large tract of land abutting the Great Ocean Road on the north side of Apollo Bay. He attracted several joint investors in the project. Over the next ten years he would invest all his energies in endeavouring to complete the development. It was an ambitious and challenging project from the outset. It became apparent earlier this year that issues relating to the development were placing him under significant pressure. While Ron had meticulously cared for his physical well being all his life, he struggled to manage stress. Notwithstanding his wife Nancy's persistent efforts in recent months to have him seek help for what she observed to be a deterioration in his mental health, sadly circumstances overwhelmed him.

Ron is survived by his father Len, his wife Nancy, and children Andrew, Sam, Ali, Laura and Richie.

**Vale Bassett  
Andrew Ramsey.**

## Glaucoma is an eye disease that can cause vision loss and is potentially blinding

Glaucoma is an eye disease that can cause vision loss and is potentially blinding. It runs in families. If someone in your family has glaucoma, you are up to 10 times more likely to develop glaucoma. You probably have never noticed or even thought about glaucoma, as it is rarely discussed. In Australia, approximately 300,000 people have glaucoma. However, about half of these people don't even know they have it. Generally, there is no pain associated with glaucoma, and the loss of sight is gradual. Peripheral vision (side vision) is usually affected first, and many people don't even notice it's gone.

In glaucoma, the optic nerve, located at the back of the eye, is damaged. This may happen if the pressure in the eye increases. Fluid in the eye should drain away, lowering eye pressure. But in glaucoma, the fluid doesn't drain away properly, slowly destroying the optic nerve, which eventually leads to blindness. The optic nerve can also become damaged by certain medicines, such as steroids, and some medical conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

There are some simple things you can do to 'beat invisible glaucoma', such as having regular and comprehensive eye checks. These checks must include measurement of eye fluid pressure, review of the optic nerve and assessment of visual field loss. Optometrists and ophthalmologists conduct these tests.

So who should have a comprehensive eye test? Anyone who:

- has a family history of glaucoma
- is over 40 years of age
- is having trouble seeing
- has taken certain medicines, such as steroids for lung conditions

- has diabetes
- has high blood pressure
- has had a serious eye injury.

The good news is that, if you are found to have glaucoma, it is treatable. Although damage to the optic nerve is not reversible, further damage to your eyesight can be stopped or slowed down. People with glaucoma are usually prescribed eye drops to lower the pressure in their eyes. Eye drops must be used regularly and exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Ask your pharmacist if you are unsure how to use eye drops. Sometimes, laser treatment, eye surgery or a combination of treatments is needed.

This year, World Glaucoma Week was 12–18 March. Glaucoma Australia is encouraging us to host a B.I.G (Beat Invisible Glaucoma) Breakfast, to raise funds to help Glaucoma Australia increase glaucoma awareness and provide educational resources to the community. If you want to know more about glaucoma, talk with your local pharmacist. They are medicine and health information experts. They can assist you with understanding how your medicines work, tell you about possible side effects and provide information about glaucoma.

Glaucoma and Vision Impairment Self Care Fact Cards are available at pharmacies around Australia providing the Self Care health information.

For your nearest Self Care pharmacy location phone the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia on 1300 369 772, or follow the link below.

If you have any problems accessing the Health Column, please contact the online education team on 03 9389 4000 or email [education@psa.org.au](mailto:education@psa.org.au).



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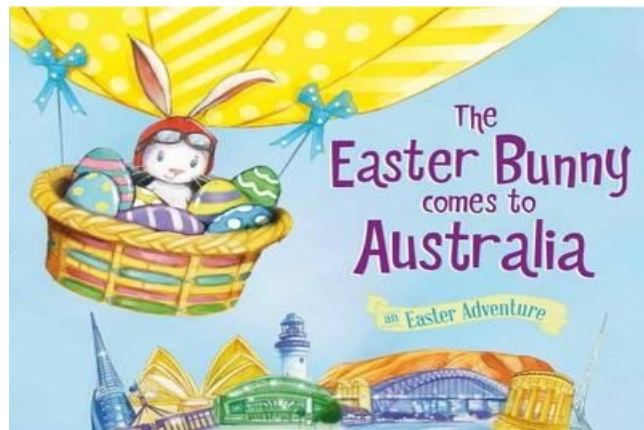
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