

LORNE

Independent

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COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Carly Enticott receiving the Silver Cup from
Mary and Doug Stirling. Photo: Judith Hisham. Page 5

John Agar - dangers of a rip to swimmers. Page 6

Guidelines in getting rid of rubbish. Page 2-3

Lorne's recycled 'plastic' roadway. Page 6

FOURTH BIN TRIAL ROLLING

Surf Coast Shire Council is trialling use of a fourth household kerbside bin during November.

A cross-section of 30 full-time residents from Moriac to Lorne and surrounds will use a new 120-litre purple lid bin for collection of glass for one month.

The trial will measure how the separation of glass from other recyclables works in a broad range of households alongside existing waste and recycling bins, test the size of the bin and its storage, and illuminate any challenges and benefits.

“We are really pleased to be getting this trial underway,” Cr David Bell said. “Council has committed to the introduction of a fourth bin during the first half of 2020 and is determined to provide a more resilient and environmentally responsible collection service for our community.

“Keeping glass separate from other recyclables has a huge impact on the quality of other recyclable materials. Glass can break when it is dropped into the kerbside bin, again as recyclables are being compacted in the truck and again during processing at the sorting facility.

“The broken pieces contaminate paper, cardboard, plastic and metal, making them less valuable and harder to recycle.”



Hundreds of people responded to Council’s calls for expressions of interest in participating in the fourth bin trial. “We are delighted that people are interested in the trial, in resource recovery and management, and in wanting to help us determine better methods.

“Finding storage space for the fourth bin has been raised as a challenge for some households, and that is one of the issues we will be working through.”

The trial will include rural and urban houses, units and apartments from Winchelsea, Moriac, Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Jan Juc, Torquay, Bellbrae, Lorne and surrounds.

Collection of household food organics together with garden organics, will also be introduced across the shire during the first half of 2020, and trialling of a fifth bin for further separation of recyclables is also planned. As Council continues to plan for changes to the kerbside bin service, people will have further opportunities to provide their input.

During the fourth bin trial participants will continue using other bins as normal. The purple lid bin is the same size as the existing landfill bin. All glass collected during the trial will be recycled.

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RECYCLING AND WASTE FOR LORNE RESIDENTS

(With thanks to the SC Shire's publicity department)

What can Lorne residents do?

Continue to separate recyclable material from your general waste.

You may choose to take your recyclables to Lorne transfer station where it can be recovered for recycling (except for plastics). See below.

Or you may choose to stockpile your recycling until the kerbside collection service resumes.

Or you can put recyclables into your yellow lid bin and leave it out for collection. It will be collected as per normal but for the time being the contents will be sent to landfill. It's important to still separate material so good habits aren't broken.

What recyclable materials can be taken to the transfer station?

Paper, cardboard, metal and glass containers taken to transfer stations can be processed because Council has a range of contracts in place that are different to our kerbside collection contracts.

We will accept household quantities of recyclables at the transfer station free of charge. If residents are working together to share loads of recyclables to the transfer stations, there will be no charge.

Paper/cardboard:

Separated paper and cardboard – will be recycled by Cleanaway

- Accepted materials: office paper, newspaper, cardboard packaging, magazines, advertising material (junk mail), clean pizza boxes, egg cartons
- Materials not accepted: any cardboard container designed to hold liquids – e.g. coffee cups, milk or juice cartons, used paper towel (put these items in the general waste bin)

Metals:

All metals are collected together – will be recycled by Sims Metal

- Accepted materials: all metal items including food cans, aluminium drink cans, metal pots and pans (no lids), aluminium foil (scrunched together in a ball), metal lids (from bottles and jars)
- Materials not accepted: non-metal items

Glass bottles and jars:

Glass beverage bottles and food jars only – will be collected by Suez

- Accepted materials: glass beverage bottles, glass food jars only (no lids)
- Materials not accepted: lids, window glass, pyrex (glass cooking items), light globes, mirrors, drinking glasses



That's Lillian at the back being a good citizen

Plastics:

Cannot be recycled through Council transfer stations. Continue to put these in the yellow lid or general waste bin as normal, depending in the type of plastic.

When will the kerbside service resume?

We have been having encouraging talks with alternative suppliers but we don't have a date yet for a return for our recycling service. Our current contractor SKM is in receivership and is no longer operating. On 10 October, Cleanaway announced plans to take over SKM's assets. We are working on some options to get kerbside recycling back as soon as possible and will update people as soon as we know more.

What about the longer term?

Regardless of the current challenges regarding the kerbside collection contract, we know increasing the sorting of recyclables at the household level can increase the value of what is collected and also opens up more opportunities to recycle material. Council is therefore working on some new services:

- A shire-wide food organics kerbside collection program
- The introduction of a fourth bin to allow for better sorting of recyclables at the household level
- A future trial of a fifth bin in a smaller urban community.

We are hoping to have the new food organics collection service and the extra recycling bin in place early in 2020.

Where is the Lorne transfer station?

370 Erskine Road, Lorne
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9am to 12pm
Sunday 2pm to 5pm

Where can I find out more?

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Property/Waste-and-recycling

RECYCLED PLASTIC FOR ROAD SURFACE

A Lorne section of Victoria's iconic Great Ocean Road has been resurfaced using thousands of kilograms of recycled plastic car components as part of a ground-breaking new trial for Regional Roads Victoria.

More than three tonnes of recycled plastic – the equivalent of around 730,000 plastic bags – has been incorporated into a new asphalt mix in order to resurface a 1.5-kilometre section.

It is the first time the state's regional road authority has used the PlastiPhalt mix, which serves as a more environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional asphalt, on any of Victoria's arterial roads.

RRV Regional Director (South West) Emma Miller-Olsen said the plastic used in the new asphalt mix had been sourced from Geelong-based company GT Recycling, diverting a significant amount of plastic from being sent to landfill, while the asphalt mix is blended locally at contractor Fulton Hogan's Lara asphalt plant.

"This project will save an amount of plastic equal to about 300,000 plastic bottles from entering landfill," Ms Miller-Olsen said.

"We're constantly looking for ways to improve the sustainability of our roadbuilding and repair practices, and this represents a significant step forward for us in terms of using recyclable materials, particularly when we're improving the Great Ocean Road – one of the state's most famous assets."

In order to further reduce the carbon footprint of the trial, the existing road surface in Lorne is also being recycled back into the new surface after being dug up, forming close to 10 percent of the new surface.

The new asphalt was laid at a slightly lower temperature as a 'warm mix' rather than a 'hot mix', which further reduces the carbon emissions of the trial.

The resurfacing works, which took four days to complete, will create a safer, more durable road surface along this section of the Great Ocean Road, which caters to 1600 vehicles per day.



The works are part of a joint \$50 million investment to upgrade the Great Ocean Road by the Victorian and Australian governments.

Regional Roads Victoria



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STIRLING SILVER CUP FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Almost from the first days when Carly Enticott started as a registered nurse at the Lorne Community Hospital in 2006, she made her presence felt by enthusiastically participating in the town's sporting and community events.

She is a keen netball player and her long association with the Lorne Football/Netball Club began as a player, then morphed into coaching both juniors and seniors. In 2017 she coached Lorne A-grade netballers to a premiership – the same year that she also participated in the New York marathon.

Carly married Wes Enticott in 2008 and the couple have two children – Kobe and Neve.

In addition to her strong sporting commitments, Carly has also made her presence felt when she joined the Stribling Reserve Committee and the Community Liaison Committee of the Lorne Community Hospital.

As vice-president of the Lorne Football and Netball Club, she started negotiations with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) to refresh the Erskine Paddock. As if she didn't have enough responsibilities, she also found time to commit to a small business – she started Lick and Sip in 2007, which is still going under the name of the Lorne Larder under new owners.

Members of the Lions Club of Lorne were unanimous in their vote to award this year's Doug and Mary Stirling Cup, to Carly Enticott, a biannual award to honour outstanding service and leadership to the Lorne Community.

The Cup is an initiative of the Lorne Lions Club and was first awarded to Doug and Mary Stirling in 2013, Henry Love in 2015 and Jan and Peter Spring in 2017. Forged in the 1920s, the Cup was once a door-stop in a Scottish ancestral home and as befitting a cup made of Sterling silver, it is now the symbol of Lorne's appreciation of leadership and service.

The Cup was presented to Carly at a formal community dinner at the View restaurant on October 25.

WATER QUALITY IN ERSKINE RIVER ESTUARY

For some time, LorneCare along with other members of the Lorne community, have been concerned about the "permanent" sign indicating that it was not safe to swim in the Erskine River estuary near the Swing Bridge. This is a popular spot for families with young children and we were not convinced that this signage always represented the quality of the water.

So, in late-August LorneCare convened a meeting with representatives of the Surf Coast Shire, EPA and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (who oversee the EstuaryWatch program). LorneCare was represented by Juliet Beatty (LorneCare EstuaryWatch Monitor) and myself.

The stated Objective of the meeting was: "To display current, credible water quality advice for recreational users of the Erskine River estuary, particularly during peak seasons."

Progress has been slow, but we have now received a Community Update from the Shire representatives, which is really a progress report. As this is a subject that I have mentioned at Committee for Lorne (CfL) meetings, I have also passed it on to CfL members, particularly as several of us are having regular meetings with senior executives of the Shire and GORCC to discuss how this information should be more widely communicated.

Clearly there is more to be done to meet our Objective but this is a start. Rest assured, LorneCare will continue to pursue this matter.

Alain Purnell
LorneCare



From the Deck by John Agar

WAVES, RIPS, SANDBARS, AND AN ISLAND IN THE RIVER

Things never stay quite the same ... a fact at times appealing, at times beguiling, and as the summer crowds return to the coastline, at times malevolent.

For the surfer, this winter has been exceptional. Endlessly, set after set, the Southern Ocean swell has fought the shore. While a source of joy for serious surfers, it has also been subtly changing our dunes, rivers, and beaches.

From the deck, I have watched the changing moods of our Lorne foreshore. As the rising seas have swept further and further into the estuary with each king tide, and as the rain-fed Erskine has gouged the Erskine pond with cleansing flows, the two opposing forces have slowly morphed the river mouth.

In May, an island was suddenly sculpted overnight below the Swing bridge – new land claimed with gusto, then defended with purpose, by one small enthusiastic grandchild. Meantime, the sand channel to the sea created perfect walls to stamp and collapse into the current.

Closer in to the Erskine point, tentative spikes of marram grass took hold, recreating – if but briefly – the longer marram-covered point I remember from my childhood – a sheltered spot where Archie Colquhoun would sit at his easel, painting the coastal sweep from river mouth to the Aireys light.

Walking Rosie and Yogi along the North Lorne beach to turn at the round stone ball on Fisherman Rock beyond Stony, sandy stretches had been washed back to bare rock platforms. In front of the beachfront steps at the point carpark, a new beach break was attracting surfers. The sands had shifted south.

Further afield, the southern end of the Eastern View beach at Spouts – once a pristine stretch of golden sand – is strewn with exposed boulders that were once buried deep beneath.

But the sea can be a malevolent and false siren, even on the sunniest of summer days. We humans are, by and large, creatures of habit, and our habits die hard. Each year, we are drawn back to our favorite beach ‘spot’ ... but, be alert, as danger may lurk where last we swam – last summer.

Sandy bottoms change, wave patterns alter, and the rips that lurk on every beach move and change, both in site and in ferocity, as the sandbanks move beneath. The spot where we swam safely last year may look the same, yet it may now be subtly different. While we must learn the rules of the road before we drive, no similar ‘tests’ are required before we enter the water. It remains our individual responsibility to know where – and how – to swim in the ocean.

Driven constantly shoreward by the wind, vast volumes of water surge as waves towards the land. As these ‘swells’ advance to towards the shallows, the ocean floor retards the deeper cooler water while the warmer water at the surface maintains its speed. Close to the shore, the surface water peaks, breaks, then tumbles on toward the sand.



Herein the malevolence, for this shoreward rush of water must somehow return to the deeper sea. This ‘recycling’ process creates what are commonly known as ‘rips’ – wave water that rapidly flows back and away from the beach into deep water.

Rips – outward flowing currents of water – occur every 100m or so along any and every beach, as they return spent wave water back to the ocean. All should learn how to identify a rip. Doing so may help save your life, or the life of one you love. Never ocean-swim without first studying the way the waves advance, and the way their spent water ebbs and flows.

Surf Life Saving provides an excellent app ... Beachsafe [see: <https://beachsafe.org.au/>]. It can be downloaded for free to any mobile device. It contains simple rip recognition rules and advice. It allows you to enter an individual beach to get more specific information. But ... a few rules of thumb are paramount:

- Beware green or sandy patches of flattened, ruffled, or swirly water between stretches of in-rolling waves ... these are rips.
- Shore-side of all in-rolling waves will be an undercurrent – sweeping left, right, or both – where incoming water is directed laterally to an outgoing rip.
- Undercurrents can be very strong, but they can also be surprisingly imperceptible.
- Teach your children to ‘fix a spot’ on the shore when they are swimming. Teach them to keep checking that they are not being swept slowly to the left or right, without being fully aware.
- Rocky coves with small beaches are a trap – and many of these entice along our coast. Some along the North Lorne stretch are especially popular with some of our newer Australians, many of whom seem less aware of the dangers of rips.
- Remember, every seductive cove will have a return current!

Learn how to identify a rip. Be alert. And, be prepared to offer a friendly caution if you see someone swimming where true danger lurks. Doing so may just save a life.

RUNNING FOR CHARITY



The Lorne Lions Club recently hosted a group of Geelong Grammar students for breakfast – the run is an annual event for the school to raise funds for charity. The Lions Club do a BBQ breakfast for this group each year and also give a donation.

Carols On The Lorne

Saturday 14 December, 2019

St Cuthbert's Church grounds



The evening begins with Lions Club sausage sizzle at 6.30pm, followed by Carol Program

Lorne Kinder Children, Students P-12 College and Lorne Performing Arts Group, with Father Christmas making an appearance at conclusion of the night!

All welcome!

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Please note: Absolute deadline for copy is five days before the end of the month.

OP-SHOP BUZZ

The Lorne Op Shop now has a Facebook page! Whenever something really interesting or special comes into the shop it will be posted on our Facebook page to whet your appetite. If you see something you fancy, pop into the shop and have a look at it. You might find a pair of Jimmy Choo shoes, a silver teapot or a beautiful painting. Perhaps something chic to wear to the races? Who knows ... ?

The Lorne Op Shop has always been a great supporter of the Lorne Community Hospital, providing funds for renovation and refurbishment of facilities and medical/nursing equipment and training, amongst other things. The LCH is now part of the newly established Great Ocean Road Health, and Op Shop members were at first a little concerned that our donations might now be spread over a much wider area.

However, we have been assured that Op Shop funds donated to the LCH will remain in Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Deans Marsh and Wye River/Sep Creek, to the benefit of our own local community. This means that those of you donating goods to the Op Shop because it supports the Lorne Community Hospital can continue to do so.


Have you seen the newly spruced up front of the Op Shop? It has been beautifully tidied up and repainted. Thanks to the Lorne Men's Shed for doing an amazing job, even pressure washing and repainting the concrete step out the front. New signage has also been installed, making the whole place look really spiffy. Hopefully this will lure lots of customers in over the busy summer period!

A recurring theme ... please ensure that the goods you donate to the Op Shop are in saleable condition. If clothing is dirty or damaged or homewares are chipped, cracked or worn out we can't sell them and they have to go to landfill, at considerable cost, both financially and, more importantly, environmentally. And in this day and age when we are all looking to minimise waste going into landfill, it also makes great sense to buy good quality pre-loved goods at the Op Shop rather than going out and buying ever more new imported clothes and homewares!

Summer's coming! Our customers will be looking for warm weather gear, so, donors, it would be really helpful if you can store your unwanted winter stuff at home and bring it in to the Op Shop next year when it starts to cool down. We just don't have the space to store things for six months, and once again, we don't want to send any more to landfill than we absolutely have to. Thanks!

Miranda Calder





THE LOUTTIT LOOP

Hooray! The useless, ugly, view-blocking 'shelter' has been removed from the Lorne skatebowl. Thanks to the efforts of Ian Stewart, Clive and Peter no doubt. And to anyone else who agitated for it to go – thanks! It popped up overnight and was never used by skaters or their fans. Extremely dangerous for skaters exiting the bowl, totally unnecessary and obstructed the divine view of the ocean.

The unattractive fenced plumbing fixture plonked thoughtlessly on the beautiful village green area has also been moved to a better spot – under the nearby tea trees with the divine dog sculptures. "It's Good News Month!"

Lornecare has some very good news in that the Shire has joined them in examining the situation of the so-called polluted river mouth. It's not as bad as they thought and most contamination seems to be from bird droppings! But not so fast! More testing is taking place and the warning signs will stay put for now. Thanks to Juliet and Alain for continuous dedication towards some sort of result

Oh dear! The lovely new picnic tables at the Swingbridge area have been created for giants! Either the benches are too low or the table is too high, but they are a good looking disaster for this little old wood duck! Work has come to a halt on the remaining tables and benches so it must be back to the drawing board!

GORCC's reno of the parking area at the same spot looks interesting and lots of planting and rocks have appeared. Car parking has been moved to the other side of the track and well defined. Sadly, the orange "gravel" is absolutely terrible and sticks like glue to shoes, dogs and car tyres. Hopefully it will compact soon. The divine little secret path from the Swingbridge to the Upper Camping ground and so to the main street has also had some work done and is very special indeed.

Wasn't it fun to see the old warship "The Melbourne" come sneaking past at a dignified slow rate of knots? On her way to be decommissioned, she set a few fingers googling!

What a beautiful photo of Jessica Sincock on the front page of the Surfcoast Times. Jessica won Volunteer Trainer of the Year for our Surf Lifesaving Club, in fact we had quite a few winners on the night! Well done team!

Belated congratulations to Lorne Year 11 student Lily Watterson who won the Torquay Lions Club's Youth of the Year award which acknowledges excellence in academia, leadership, cultural, sporting, public speaking and citizenship involvement! Go girl! Lily also took out the Public Speaking Award with a prepared five minute speech addressing the issue of assisted dying! Now Lily progresses to the nation-wide program in the Lions Zone Final.

Several years ago the Lorne RSL had a drive for members which was extremely successful and also caused the terrific reno of our Anzac memorial area and the planting of our 'lone pine'. Once more with the aged population frail and dwindling, the numbers are well down, and we are in danger, it would appear, of being seconded to Colac or some other stronger group. Please read Cr Clive's words on this worrying situation in this very issue.

Mark Purdey's retirement from his upmarket restaurant is well earned, and we not only wish him fun and happiness without saluting almost every day, but thank him for all the yummy meals, bread, salads, and the incredibly special atmosphere. His retirement began with producing a fabulous meal for the Lorne Community Connect lunch – braised beef cheeks with mash, and apple and rhubarb crumble! Wow.

A large group of Lorneites travelled to Tumut for the funeral of Alan Roache. The Roaches were a huge part of Lorne's history and everyone has their own set of stories about the family. Alan and Julie's ten-year-old daughter played the piano at the service and Alan's kids spoke beautifully about their dad who certainly lived a colourful life! Sympathies to Julie and the Roache family.

Nice photo of Dick Davies {and colourful quote as well} in the Saturday Age under the heading of "The day death and drugs came to town". The Age was promoting a new podcast called The Last Voyage of the Pong Su and this article was retelling the fascinating story of the attempt to land 150 kg of heroin on Lorne's coastline. Still makes interesting reading even though it was 16 years ago and the same excellent jokes still do the rounds, proving that Aussies will make fun of absolutely anything.

If your rubbish bin's keyed lock is no longer working (sadly they were faulty) please go to our Visitor's Centre and they will GIVE you a rubber clip gadget which is easy to put on to one side of the bin lid's handle, and works a charm. Please consider getting a couple more for bins in your street which attract cockies and cause rubbish to be spread everybloodywhere! It's fascinating to observe how cunning these rascals are. Not only do they con tourists into feeding them, but have you seen how well they work together to remove heavy rocks or wood from the lids of bins? Incredible.

The Lorne Op Shop wishes to thank the generous donor of a very large number of fantastic leather and suede jackets, shirts, drizabones etc. Two big deliveries left outside the shop JUST prior to opening hours on consecutive days brought great joy to the volunteers who absolutely adore getting such fantastic donations in perfect condition. Everyone's a winner! The Shop is appealing for towels please – think of them in your spring cleaning frenzy!

It was so good to have a heap of laughs at the hilarious evening at the Country Club's Festival of Performing Arts night when Basil, Sybil and Manuel took over the restaurant. The meal was fabulous and one cannot imagine how the kitchen team prepare, serve and plate up for over 100 people in that tiny kitchen. Summer's coming and they will be ready for it!! The Clubhouse looked amazing and the all-white theme and transformation of the former kids area into more tables really works well. Lots of alterations and improvements up there where the view is one of the best in town!

What the heck has happened to the workers at the new Fairhaven bridge? They started so well and now have disappeared for weeks. Weird! Summer's looming!

Big kerfuffle and shake-up at the Hospital as a result of its amalgamation with the Apollo Bay Hospital under the umbrella name of the Great Ocean Road Health Team and a new Board called – you got it – The Board of Great Ocean Health. Acting CEO Carissa Brock has moved out of her temporary chair, and it will be filled on 18th November by new CEO Sandy Chamberlin who has come from Goulburn Valley Health. We welcome Sandy and wish her luck. How will it affect most of us? Hopefully not much! But personally I have found the doctor I want to see is "at Apollo Bay today, sorry" and our doctors are certainly 'on the road' a lot! Cannot imagine how this will work over the busy summer holiday time. Sorry to be a bit negative, but change is disturbing, and maybe in ten years we'll get it, but right now many Lorne folk ask "WHY"??! Lillianx x

DOES WORKING AS A PHARMACIST APPEAL TO YOU?

In a landscape of increasing opportunities for pharmacists, PSA has launched its foundation stage training program for those wanting to work as a general practice pharmacist.

Are you looking for the next step in your career? Discover the rewards of working at the coalface of primary care – talking to patients about managing their medicines, identifying medicine issues, influencing prescribing choices, collaborating with GPs and the primary care team, and ensuring quality use of medicines.

As a relatively new phenomenon in Australia, working as a general practice pharmacist may be uncharted territory for both the pharmacist and the general practice.

The role needs to be developed in collaboration with new colleagues. Consider how to obtain patient consultations, what practice-level activities (e.g. clinical audits) to undertake, and what training/education you could provide to patients and fellow health professionals. As in any worthwhile jobs, there may be barriers along the way.

Have a talk to your local pharmacist if you are at all interested.



Your monthly health newsletter brought to you by the team at the Lorne Pharmacy & Beauty Retreat

Renea Forsyth is our regular Wednesday pharmacist, specialising in women's health issues, mother and baby care, skin problems and fashion ... Come in for a chat any Wednesday

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THE POWER OF THE SEA

Back in the late 1950s



The Commodore of the LAAC Keith Miller sent us this photo taken in 1958-59 and it is part of the collection of historic photos held by Lorne's Historical Society.

"I'm neither a climate change believer nor non-believer," wrote Commodore Keith. "I'm not a scientist and I don't know who or what to believe, but I can guess what the headlines would say if this happened today!"

Any comments?

SENSOR TECHNOLOGY AND LORNE PARKING

Surf Coast Shire Council will install sensors between Otway and Bay Streets in a move aimed at trying to improve turnover of parking in this central commercial area of Mountjoy Parade.

"The aim of the technology is to improve parking availability which has become problematic, especially at peak times," said Cr Brian McKiterick.

"Traders have expressed their concern to Council about motorists overstaying in time restricted parking spaces and a survey of 51 traders in Torquay, Jan Juc, Anglesea and Lorne identified that 78 per cent supported the introduction of sensor technology.

"The technology will support Local Laws Officers to manage time-limited parking more efficiently and improve turnover of car parks in busy areas," Cr McKiterick said.

"The technology won't change current parking controls, including existing time limits. Nor will it result in paid parking or affect how officers issue parking fines. Drivers will only be impacted if they breach parking restrictions," he said.

The technology replaces the need for parking officers to 'chalk' tyres to determine when vehicles overstay. Officers will have an app on their phones which will highlight the breach and enable them to go to the space and move the driver on, issue a warning or issue an infringement notice.

The system consisting of 132 units known as Parking Overstay Detection System, or PODS, will be installed in the following trading locations soon.

A Council spokesperson said that the sensor-based technology has been used in Australia for more than 10 years and is reliable and readily available. Sensors are installed in the ground below each parking space and magnetically detect a vehicle parked in the space.

TrickeyBros.

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FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

For the Lorne Ward Cr Clive Goldsworthy - 0400 756 854 lorneward.information@gmail.com



I recently returned from a magnificent three weeks travelling Northern NSW & South Australia with the Commodore, Keith Miller, Joseph Banks alias Doug Williams and an old mate from my Asian days.

We travelled over 5,700 kms visiting Tibooburra, Cameron Corner, the Flinders Ranges and William Creek to name just a few places. The landscape was constantly changing as we headed further north. The current drought is continuing to have a huge impact on the area bringing great hardship whether economic, physical or mental. Many areas we travelled through have not received any meaningful rain for over three years and yet people remained optimistic, a far cry from our weather in Lorne.

At William Creek we were fortunate enough to fly over and land at Anna Creek Station, the largest cattle station in the world, 24,000 sq kms, larger than Israel and 7 times larger than any cattle station in Texas. The property has 3,500kms of roads and over 6,500 kms of fencing. At its peak the station was running over 25,000 head of cattle, although due to the drought stock levels have been reduced to 4,000 with further reductions still occurring. We then undertook an escorted 12 kilometre walk through an area only recently discovered in the Painted Hills area. This experience was breathtaking and a once in a life-time opportunity however due to the fragile nature of the rock formations, fossils and vegetation the area will remain closed to the public.

We all returned home safely and are now looking forward to our next adventure crossing the Simpson Desert in 2020.

Recycling Update

Council has committed to changing kerbside waste and recycling services, to create a more resilient and environmentally responsible service. One change in 2020 will be the introduction of a fourth wheelie bin.

The Shire will shortly undertake trialing a fourth household wheelie bin, for the separation of glass. This trial is to test the size of the bin, and to gain feedback from local households on how the additional bin works alongside existing waste and recycling bins.

Why should glass be separated from other recyclable materials collected?

Removing the glass is a simple thing to do, but it has a huge impact on the quality of the other recyclable materials collected.

The simple reason is that glass breaks, first when it's thrown in the kerbside bin, again as the recyclables are compacted in the truck, and a third time during the processing at the sorting facility. The broken pieces contaminate the paper and cardboard, plastic and metal, which makes those materials less valuable and harder to recycle.

Please continue to separate glass from your other recyclable materials and take them to our Lorne Transfer Station, maybe share this task with your neighbours.

To find out more visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au and go to news, recycling update

Dates for your diary

The Melbourne Cup Weekend will certainly provide a variety of activities.

- Lions Foreshore Market - Saturday 2nd November 9.00am – 4.00pm
- Wine Tasting afternoon – Aquatic & Angling Club 2pm – 4pm
- Kitty Flannigan – Lorneview Hotel Saturday night 6.30pm – 10.30pm
- Lorne Country Club AGM – Sunday 3rd - 10.30am
- Lorne Country Club Melbourne Cup Calcutta – Monday 4th 6.30pm – late
- Lorne Aquatic & Angling Club – Melbourne Cup Tuesday 5th 11am
- The Lorne Football & Netball Club will hold its AGM on 9th November 10am
- The Lorne RSL Sub-Branch - Remembrance Day Service, ANZAC Memorial Park Monday Nov 11th - 10.30am
- The annual Deans Marsh Market will be held 24th November 9.00am – 2.00pm

Lorne RSL Sub-Branch

The Lorne RSL sub-branch has been an integral part of the Lorne & District community for over 75 years and has a rich history. There are many examples of heroism, hardship, illness and all too often death of the men and women who served our great country. Over the next few months leading into 2020 ANZAC Day we intend to contribute a monthly article to the Lorne Independent telling the individual stories of members of our community who served.

The Lorne R.S.L. sub-branch was formed in 1940 with Captain Jack Nichols as its first president. Prior to World War 2, locals diggers were members of the Winchelsea sub-branch. In the Great War (1914-1918) 41 men and Violet Stirling, who were residents of the township, served. In World War 2, 127 men and six women enlisted to serve. Eight residents severed in Vietnam.

Over the years since its formation many Lorne identities have provided outstanding service to the branch and to the returned service personnel of Lorne. For example: Garth Harry 22 years as treasurer, Jack Carrol 21 years as secretary,

Continued page 13

From page 12

Doug Stirling 20 years as president, Eric Hodson 19 years as secretary, Jack Hickey 18 years as president and Graham Wheel 11 years as both president and secretary. Ron Adams is a current member of the branch who for years has given his time to sell poppies prior to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, to raise funds for the work of the RSL.

Members since the end of the Great War have worked tirelessly to provide support to the diggers and their widows and also through Legacy to the children of those who served and never returned.

In the early 1950s the branch raised the funds to build the RSL Hall (now part of the Lorne P-12 College in Smith Street), to serve as a meeting place and to host community dances and functions.

Gary Allen has provided his thoughts below on the Lorne RSL and reflects on his father's participation.

"In the Second World War my father served as part of the Ambulance Corps, as a stretcher-bearer in Papua New Guinea. He never once burdened us with the horrors he witnessed in those fields, he always deflected our questions. After his death I found a photograph in the Australian War Memorial's digital collection of him on Christmas Day 1943, with the wounded in the field hospital.

To honour his memory and the service of so many from our township I joined the Lorne Sub-Branch of the RSL as an affiliate member and worked with others to build the membership of the branch to well over 50 people. This was done in the year of the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, with the target of reaching 100 members. Sadly, this work faltered, but now we as a community must work to honour those who were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice, by keeping an active sub-branch in Lorne. "

Since early 2015 a number of members of the RSL have worked to upgrade ANZAC Square which opened in time for the 2018 Armistice commemoration on the 11th November, exactly a hundred years to the day when fighting ceased in Europe. Unfortunately, the Square has not been officially opened – let's hope that bureaucracy does not continue to hinder the Opening & Dedication of the Square – the lead up to ANZAC Day 2020 would seem appropriate.

The sub-branch has for some years found it difficult to fill Committee positions and as such it may ultimately need to amalgamate with another branch, something I am sure our Community would not like to see happen.

Membership is open to all members of the community, with three categories.

Service: for past and present serving members of the Australian Defence Forces & Allied Armed Services.

Affiliate: for relatives of a past/present service members or members of emergency services. (i.e. Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance & SES).

Social: for those not eligible to be Service or Affiliate members.

Membership forms can be obtained by contacting :

Craig Hunt cj.hunt@hotmail.com
June Adams rwadams5@bigpond.com

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AQUATIC CLUB

Keith Miller - Commodore

News from the Lorne Angling and Aquatic Club

A big congratulations to the Lorne Dolphins senior footy team for winning back to back flags which was a sensational effort. The B Grade girls were very unlucky and were just pipped at the post but being runners up was still a great effort. The AFL grand final has been and gone and it was good to see the cup back in Victoria where it belongs.

We've had a quiet winter with a lot of our regulars heading up north to the warmer climate but most of them including myself are back now so things are starting to fire up again at the clubhouse.

We are still closing on Tuesdays until the end of November, then open 7 days a week from December right through until Easter.

Drop in and have a cold one at the world's friendliest club and enjoy our free snacks and nibbles. This summer we are going to give Great Northern Mid Strength Draught Beer a go along side our regular Carlton Draught. They will all still be served in our world famous ice cold handles. Don't forget our facilities are available to any member for any event.

Upcoming Events

Our next Fishing Competition sponsored by Ken and Chick from Lorne Hardware and Leisure will be held on Sunday the 3rd of November. It's our final comp for the year and it's too close to call.

Ian Middleton, Andrew Clarke and Paul Staley are the top three but it's so close that anyone of them can win. Ric Barham isn't that far behind them either sitting in 4th position. So the last comp is going to be very exciting.

As usual the weigh in will commence at 12pm with the deadline at 12.30.

This will be followed by presentations and then a roast lunch.

Wine Tasting Afternoon

On Saturday November 2nd between 2pm and 3.30pm Cork Crew Cellars will be featuring local wines, olives and cheeses. All welcome.

Melbourne Cup

Our annual Melbourne Cup Extravaganza is on again. Tuesday November 5.

Our courtesy bus will be operating from about 10.45am. Entry is free.

We kick off at 11am with free champagne, chicken and salad lunch, snacks and nibbles and a sausage sizzle later in the day We will have an on-site bookie, a sweep for every race and fashions on the field for both the ladies and the gentlemen with huge prizes, TV's inside and outside with two marquees if the weather is dodgy.

Last year we had a big improvement with the men but we would still love a few more to make an effort and drag out that old suit from the back of your wardrobe.

Come along and join in the fun. All welcome.

Garlic Competition

Don't forget to start nurturing your Garlic. We will be holding our Great Ocean Road Garlic Championships in December on a date to be advised.

We will again have; Men, Ladies and a Junior section.

AGM

This years AGM sponsored by FoodWorks Lorne and will be held on Saturday 30th November at 5.30pm. It will be followed by fishing competition trophy presentations, an open bar for one hour and free snacks.

Hawaiian Shirt

Wednesday evenings in January have become a tradition with our beloved campers coming along en masse. We all look forward to our 'Campers Wednesdays' they are great fun.

It was suggested to me last summer that to add to the fun we should encourage everyone to come along wearing a Hawaiian Shirt every Wednesday during January.

So we've decided that anyone who wears one will get their first beer free. Also each week we will award a prize to the best Hawaiian shirt.

Pier To Pub

We are making a few changes for next year's pier to pub to avoid the overcrowding and the lock out debacle that occurred this year. I will have all the details in next month's notes.

Recent Events

On Sunday the 6th of October we held our 5th Major Fishing Competition sponsored by GREAT OTWAY CONSTRUCTION (Luke Norton and Andy Little). Conditions weren't too good but once again our stalwarts braved the elements and several fish were weighed in. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful roast lunch after the presentations.

The Winner on the day was Paul Staley with a flathead = 3046 points

Runner Up was Ian Middleton (The Salmon King) = 2186 points

Third was Andrew Clarke with a flathead - 2132 points

An honourable mention to Alison and Steve Arundell and Pat Russell with some salmon they caught off the pier.

Pictured right, one of our Champion Fishing Couple and local identities Wayne and Carolyn Griffiths. Between the two of them they currently hold an amazing five Club Fish Records

2020 Membership

Keep your eye out for our membership renewals which will be emailed out shortly. In the mean time if you are at the club you can pay Hutch any time. We haven't increased the fees this year.

SINGLE \$45; FAMILY \$60 - 2 Adults and 2 children under 18; PENSIONER \$25; BOAT \$75 Same as family but allows you to use our boat wash and fish cleaning facilities.

Fishing Report

I've been away for a few weeks but I've asked around and everyone tells me that the fishing has been a bit slow for the last month or so. The good old reliable flathead are still about in good numbers and so are the salmon but Gummies, Whiting and Snapper have been a bit scarce.

One local angler Millsy got onto a good patch of snapper a couple of days ago and caught his bag limit so hopefully they might be returning.



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'The Studio' - 3 bedrooms with kitchenette, dining table, lounge and spacious deck area. Both front bedrooms have the obligatory stunning ocean views.

Beyond all this is the experience. Décor, styling and all the little touches that you will not find from recreation. Salt Air deserves to be loved and respected and to those who do, a warm welcome and open door is yours for an unforgettable beach holiday.

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FRIENDS OF LORNE REVITALISED

The 120-member strong Friends of Lorne is in the process of being revitalised with new leadership and some positive ideas with heavy emphasis on planning and development of Lorne's environs consistent with the need for preservation of its natural features.

President Dr Penny Hawe, elected at its AGM some months ago, said that among other issues, emphasis would be on the flora and fauna of the district.

In a circular to Friends of Lorne members that went out recently, Dr Hawe said that the society's mission was also to encourage and contribute to the planning development and maintenance of community services and activities, and the Lorne environs consistent with the balanced needs of permanent residents, holidaying residents, campers and tourists.

Dr Hawe said that FoL 'will remain the go to place for preserving and protecting the natural environment'.

With Dr Hawe president, Dr Mary Lush has been elected Secretary and Lindy Pearce Treasurer; the retiring president was Ian Brown.

The Committee is made up of St John Sutton, Graham Brawn, Carol Baker (as an observer), Steve Bayley, and Ross Dimsey.

The Friends of Lorne morphed into its present form about a decade or so ago from the legacy of the Lorne Planning and Preservation League. In many ways it is a good balance to the activities of the comparatively recently formed Committee for Lorne which aims at a different target in the development of Lorne.

The meeting also heard that there was some concern about the establishment of a 'pump park' on Erskine Paddock. "FoL are concerned about losing passive green space on the foreshore. We are in discussion about the best ways to meet recreational needs of young families and visitors."

The recently released circular also said that "as part of our renewal, regeneration and reactivation we will be compiling and publicising more about our legacy and our history ... We hope to raise our own profile and celebrate the achievements of particular people in Lorne".

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MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR HIGH-FLYING ENTERPRISE?

No, it certainly is not the boardroom of some multi-million dollar high-flying enterprise but the Lorne and District Men's Shed sparkling newly renovated social table and chairs, courtesy of Barwon Water.

The Barwon Water premises next to the Industrial Estate is being turned into a training facility and offered it to the Shedders who naturally were delighted, and within days carted the heavy table down to the Men's Shed.

The task was achieved under the guidance (and direction) of newly elected President Bob Sinclair and a merry band of huffing and puffing helpers. The table and chairs also received some gentle loving in the form of a special antique polish and after the previous table was sold, members agreed that the much-bigger fixture was ideal for the Shed's Alan Walls Social Room.

If you're wondering about the little man in red, President Sinclair nominated the figure as his official stand-in should he be absent. **JV**





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SPORTSBRIEFS

with John Ford

Summer Sports Have Begun!

After what seems to have been a long period of cold weather we are now getting many more warm sunny days. While it was a very successful Winter of sport, especially for our Dolphins football and netball teams, our minds now quickly think of a variety of summer sports. Many of these sports have already begun and Lorne's various sporting clubs extend warm welcomes to visitors and new members.

Lorne Country Club is the venue for golf, tennis and The Peak restaurant – refer to Wendy Hutchison's article and photos of the very keen women's golf group. The main two tennis courts are currently being resurfaced with a synthetic carpet to improve playing conditions in most weathers. Lorne is fielding a summer men's team in the Tennis Geelong competition and after two matches currently stands with one emphatic win and a narrow loss. Lawn Bowls has resumed and Merna Smith in her article below welcomes visitors to the club and restaurant.

For those more interested in beach sports the Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club and also the Lorne Aquatic Club conduct a range of activities sure to please – Commodore Keith Miller's article in this edition is always inspiring. Many of us just wish to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the coast and the hills – swimming, bushwalking, running and cycling. With all of these activities we need to take care and respect the weather, the environment and of course each other – remember to be sun conscious and carry water. Most of Lorne's sporting clubs have restaurants operating over the summer period and you will be made to feel totally welcome – in fact your presence is important to the ongoing success of these clubs. Whatever you choose – play hard, play fair and play safe!!!

Lorne Bowls Club

The 2019/2020 Pennant season has begun and our new green has been put to the test. The outdoors bowling carpet was completed in time to allow a couple of weeks for players to practice on the new surface.

Players are happy with the appearance of the carpet for the start of the new season. Congratulations to the Green Replacement Sub-committee, Alan Walls, Peter Jacobs and Brad Weetman, who put a lot of time in the choosing. The carpet will take some time to settle down and permanent new rink markings will not be provided for a few months, in the meantime chalk marking will be used.

Most players are happy with the new carpet and all agree that it will take some time to adjust their bowling techniques to suit the characteristics of the carpet.

It seems some bowlers have to put more weight into their bowling as the new surface is slower than the old covering and there is a need to bowl a narrower line.

Also the bowls do not turn in as readily as they did on the old surface. These points will be taken care of with more practise.

Pennant teams have had mixed results so far this season with only two or three games played in each Division. As usual weather plays a big part in results. Club competitions have started with the Mens doubles and Ladies doubles already taking place.

The Restaurant is up and running and Simon and Anna are providing marvellous food, do visit.

Merna and Ken Smith

Women's Golf

This month, most of the women players had three days away, staying in Camperdown, where we played twice and we also played at Cobden. Camperdown course is looking spectacular, with beautiful views over the lake. The course was a little wet in Cobden, so there was lots of frustrating plugged balls and some colourful cursing.



The women players had lots of fun and many laughs over the three days, especially as our great group is growing. Many players in our region find the hills of Lorne Country Club tough going, yet these same hills keep our women fit. So it is not so surprising that when our women play on the flatter courses they often star. This has continued over the last month with our team winning for the first time in ages at Apollo Bay.

Talk about a public brag, but yours truly was part of the winning team along with Danni Debon and Lesley Goldsworthy.

Our Captain, Chris Angus has won B Grade at both Inverleigh and Ocean Grove, followed up with a second place in the overall field at Curlewis.

Those who can make it to The Calcutta on Cup Weekend, will surely be up for a lively night with plenty of fun. Check the Lorne Country Club web page for details.

Continued page 23

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Lorne women will always welcome new members so come and join us. We meet every Tuesday at 8.30 am, starting play at 9 am.

For further please contact Wendy Hutchison on 0419878089 or Sue Neill on 0418 674 062.

Wendy Hutchison - President Womens Golf

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



**LORNE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB INC
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE**

2019 Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Leisure Centre

Stribling Reserve

November 9th 2019

10 am

Anyone wishing to be an Office bearer or Committee member must apply in writing seven days (7) days prior to the AGM to Secretary.

Nominations must be signed by two financial members and received by the Secretary no later than the close of business Friday 1st November 2019.

Proxy voting forms are available from the Secretary at lornefnc@gmail.com or ring 0409 320 132 and must be returned 24 hours prior to the meeting.



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TO FEED, OR NOT TO FEED... THAT IS THE QUESTION?

John Agar

I made a friend today: he was dazzlingly blue, inquisitive of eye, tentative of hop ... but, in the end, persuaded by some biscuit crumbs ... a superb Otway blue wren!

The temptation to 'relate' was too much – I succumbed to the indefensible – and fed him. And ... a 'he' he was, for consistent through most of the natural kingdoms – and perhaps most visibly so in the bird kingdom – the boys get 'the gaudy', the girls score 'the drab'.

As he gently pecked a crumbled Sao from my palm, guilt struck, for only an hour earlier, I had cautioned some visitors from our north about the dangers of feeding the cockies! Yet here I was ... behaving no better, or in all likelihood, even worse!

Like most Lorne residents, I awake each morning to a soundtrack of piping and whistling from a jostling row of king parrots and galahs arraigned along the balcony parapet. 'Hey you – where's breakfast?' Meanwhile, in a nearby gum, the inevitable Kookaburras cackle to the coming rain, and a magpie pair attempts to out-warble the wattlebirds feasting on the yellow candlesticks of the giant Banksia down by the front gate.

For a time, Rosie and Yogi – Rosie in particular – would attempt to exert their superiority with a sharp series of 'my patch' rebukes ... but, ignored, they feign disdain, slink away in defeat, curl up, and snore.

An almond to each reaching beak once sufficed. But as they whistle and cluck for more, I wonder: how much is too much – and is 'our' food harmless? While the urge to befriend and feed is palpable, what can we safely feed our birdlife? ... especially when the official mantra seems to be: 'if in doubt, don't feed'.

Pet food stores and supermarkets sell pre-formed columns of assorted seeds, glued by honey and molasses into agglomerates labelled as 'Wild Bird Feeder'. Many years ago, my children created 'tasty' parrot cookies of lard, honey and seed – or did until Nick's friend Tom ate an entire batch in the mistaken belief that they were some kind of new and exotic biscuit'. Until then, I had never quite appreciated how difficult a raft of sunflower seeds might be to flush!

Darryl Jones, the Deputy Director of Environmental Futures Research Institute at Griffith University writes (1): '... many Australians feed wild birds in their gardens – yet the practice is discouraged by many bird groups and governments. That's in stark contrast to what's encouraged in other countries, so what should we be doing? ...'

While in the UK and the US, native birds feeding is an accepted national pastime, here in Australia, official attitudes – and most advice – is to the polar opposite. Jones notes that '... [while] there are plenty of bird feed products available with the label "wild", these are mainly mixes for cage birds'.

BirdLife Australia warns that 'a constant supply of 'artificial' food can be unhealthy for birds' and recommends that 'the creation of bird-friendly habitats and the provision of water' is always the better option.



Jones offers some simple rules to follow which, with deference to Jones, I have edited ... and added a couple of my own:

1. Provide a snack, not a meal. Birds only need a little – after all, they are only little – and they will (and should) get most of their diet the natural way.
2. If you use a bird feeder or offer water in a bird bath, clean them thoroughly every day to avoid the spread of disease.
3. Avoid processed food – including mince or sausage for the Kookaburras.
4. Never offer food that contains salt or sugar ... like Nick's Tom-devoured cookies likely did!
5. Seeds are the best option: almonds, peanuts, walnuts, cashews, and hazelnuts are fine – in moderation. Pumpkin, sunflower and fennel seeds, or sprouted seeds like beans, lentils, wheat, rye, or alfalfa are also acceptable though apple, apricot, peach, avocado, and acorns can be toxic, especially in large amounts.

Finally, to the topic of 'our' ubiquitous cockies, and many readers will have seen the growing number of badly damaged and beak-deformed cockies in town. These pitiful birds are suffering from psittacine beak and feather disease (Pbfd) – or psittacine circovirus disease.

An edited out-take from a NSW government website (2) notes that Pbfd '... affects the [Cockatoo's] immune system, and causes a breakdown of keratin. This causes deformed beaks and weakened feather 'quills', with the latter leading to widespread feather loss. The droppings of infected birds contain potentially infectious circovirus particles that then infect other birds. The virus spreads when birds cluster at 'feed stations' and healthy birds come into contact with those already contaminated. The disease is usually fatal.

The growing population of damaged and diseased cockatoos in Lorne should be of concern to us and is an issue that may need to be seriously considered by the Shire.

References:

1. <https://www.newsouthbooks.com.au/books/birds-my-table/>
2. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/parrots/the-danger-of-feeding-lorikeets>

EDITORIAL

We are living side by side with almost countless wild creatures here in Lorne and the emphasis and the responsibility lies squarely on our shoulders to understand their way of life, not the other way round.

Birds of course are the most visibly abundant but we also have lizards, snakes, koalas, echidnas, rabbits and foxes on occasions, worms, spiders, flies, mosquitos, all creatures great and small and too numerous to mention all ... the fabled Otway panther makes the occasional 'appearance' but the belief is that this creature is more than likely to be a feral cat gone fat, rather than something bigger in the feline family.

Our special writer Dr John Agar is blunt in his description of what can happen to birds when you feed them, especially those very intelligent but nuisance-credited sulphur crested cockatoos, but... another time and another place ... this particular article concerns that wondrous, ubiquitous all-singing, all-dancing magpie.

We are nearly over the breeding season when swooping is common (unfortunately statistics tell that at least a couple of eyes are lost annually by aggressive behaviour); the bird's action is defensive in that it tries to protect its young in a nearby nest.

But it's because of its complex, endearing singing and its tonal range that the magpie has few rivals among its avian brethren. The variance of its songs and the complexity of meaning projected has fascinated ornithologists for a long time – one of the great joys is to be in its company during its morning warbles as it struts its stuff around a backyard ...

There is wisdom in the belief that birds, any bird, should never be fed – sure, give them water in big bowls to drink from or immerse their feathers – but unless you know your bird's feeding habits, offering food can be dangerous. To the bird, not to you!

The magpie is territorial and once a magpie couple has established a nest, both tend to be around a long time.

Studies have proven that this bird can recognise individual people and even form a sort of friendship with humans.

There are a couple of magpies who constantly visit 'my' territory. They have never been fed, but they give joy with their singing and dancing as they scratch around for food. There has also never been any swooping and there seems to be no problem coming within an arm's reach.

Once trust has been established, the magpie has no problem with closeness to a human. One even used to come within a hand's breadth, peering at the shovel work in the garden, presumably to check out anything (such as a worm) that might appeal.



Magpies breed from August through to October and some birds will swoop within 30-50 metres in defence of their nest. Swooping and beak-clacking is a warning to would-be intruders. In a strike attack, a magpie usually swoops, hovers momentarily and then strikes. The fluttering of wings as the bird hovers can be a warning to duck your head to avoid the attack.

The likelihood of an attack is increased if the birds are teased or feel threatened in any way. Remember though, magpies are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 and there are serious penalties for taking, harassing or injuring native wildlife.

Although the magpie and others in the avian brother-and-sisterhood have shown remarkable survival skills in the face of steady encroachment by humans into their habitat, just remember they are animals, wild and mostly not so wild, and they are entitled to be treated respectfully.

For further information on magpie swooping, including a downloadable "Swoop Off" kit with a 10 tips fact sheet, a warning sign and a printable set of 'eyes' or to report a magpie swooping location, please visit the Department of Sustainability and Environment website.

Jo Vondra

Pauline

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pauline@bbdesign.com.au

LORNE'S NEW GARDEN GROUP GOES A ROVING!

The heath, wattles and orchids were in abundance throughout the magnificent Grampian ranges. From the Comfort Inn Country Plaza in Halls Gap, we explored the Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre to hear the ancient history of Aboriginal people in Gariwerd, their traditional land.

Each day we enjoyed picnic morning teas, stopped at local land marks, searched for wildflowers, wine and dined happily!

The Australian Wildflower Company export operation of local native flora impressed and amazed us. We lunched at Grampians Olive Estate and enjoyed late afternoon "Happy Hour" in Royce Raleigh's Wartook Native Garden.

A highlight on the way home through Dunkeld was the Chef's Tour of the Royal Mail Hotel Kitchen Garden. Steve, our Mc Harry's Coach driver gave 34 'garden lovers' a very comfortable, enjoyable and happy trip. **Barb Barber**



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If you have the time and the interest to spend a little time each month helping the Editor to put together the stories and opinions that chronicle life in Lorne, your enthusiasm and assistance would be much appreciated. You can contact the editor for further information or to register your support.

Ring Jo Vondra on 0401 744 152

GOOD GUM, BAD GUM

Doug Williams

Many of us know that the devastating forest fires which have been raging across the western seaboard of the United States in recent years are fuelled by gum trees. Gum trees which were first planted during the 1860s by foresters who selected them because they were trialling fast growing trees for firewood production.

In my library of books is a 1978 copy of *'Emigrant Eucalypts'* published by MUP and details all the countries that have adopted gum trees for one purpose or another. In 1803 South Africa was the first African nation to introduce Tasmanian Blue gums and later River Red Gums "for fuel, mining timbers and construction purposes". It is however *E. grandis* that is now most commonly grown there and this is utilised in the production of rayon.

King Menelik II of Ethiopia encouraged the planting of blue gums to counter deforestation and made their cultivation tax free from 1895 onwards to expedite this. They were chosen since not only are they quick growers, they grow straight and so are widely used in construction - they are still used as scaffolding on building sites today. There are certainly many, many hectares of blue gums growing there as visitors to the country will certainly attest. Not enough though apparently because on the 29th of July this year, some three hundred and fifty three million trees were planted in Ethiopia by, among others, the president and his Republican Guard. It was a world record for trees planted in a day. The trees chosen I have been unable to determine.

It was a different story in Portugal in 1989 when two hundred of their Republican Guard was called out to face up against an uprising of villagers protesting against a nascent eucalypt plantation. Over two hundred hectares of seedlings was torn up. Eight hundred of them came out in force to object to the trees fearing the environmental impact they would cause. They were concerned because of how the trees would affect the water table and because of the threat of forest fire, a reality when in 2017 there were sixty four deaths in a forest fire started in eucalypt plantations. One quarter of the forested areas of Portugal support gum trees.



Many locals believe that the trees arrived with Portuguese explorers who visited Australia such as Dirk Hartog and Abel Tasman but no, they were introduced by, among others, Joseph Banks almost two hundred years later for the purpose of - as the French did in their Algerian colony in the 1860s - draining swampland, fighting malaria and controlling erosion. It was later found that the trees caused a lowering of the water table thereby crippling agriculture and sequestering water from village water supplies. Today they are planted for pulp and are Portugal's most common tree species.

There is also the environment. Concerns about biological diversity have arisen in Spain, Portugal and California. In California the jury is out on their impact on biodiversity. Certain insectivorous birds that rely on native forest habitat or for nesting sites fare poorly in a eucalypt forest but others can adjust. It seems diversity in native versus eucalypt forest is similar but the species are different. It is a different story in Portugal though where gum forests, according to Pedro Bingre, the regional director of Portugal's major environmental group Quercus - named after the native cork oak tree that, thanks in part to the proliferation of eucalypts is in steady decline - "are deathly quiet", he says. "Our fauna can't feed on it; they can't find refuge in it. Our insects can't eat eucalyptus, so there are no birds," says Bingre. "We should introduce koalas. At least there would be something cute to look at." (These last few sentences are taken from *The Monthly*).



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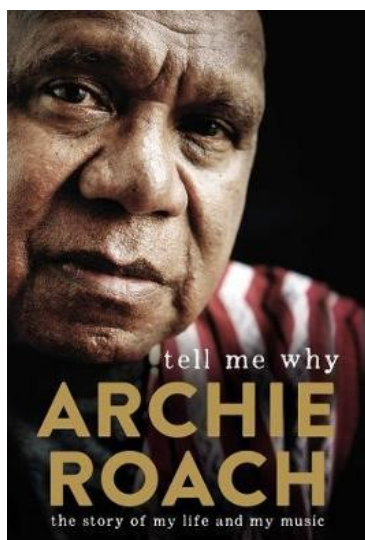
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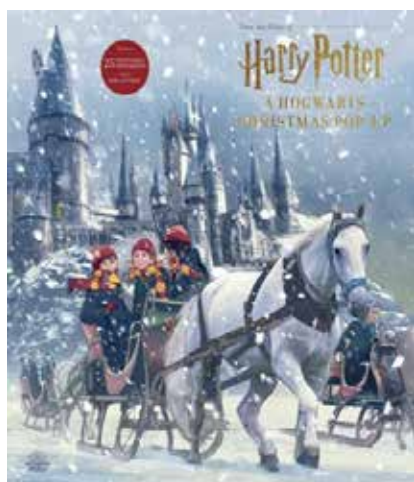
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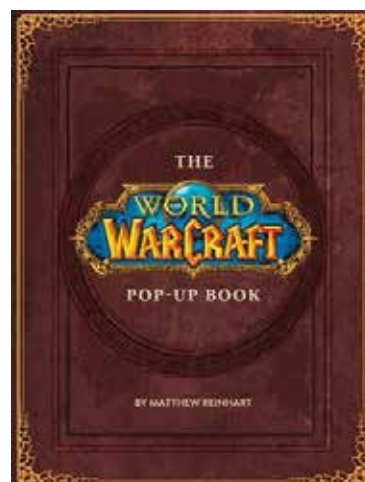
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