

# LORNE

## Independent

No 226 September 2020

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

FACE MASK,  
THE NEW LOOK  
AROUND LORNE.

See story on page 3

Ernest Raetz examines  
Lorne's tourist DNA on page 3

# Essential adjective

1. absolutely necessary; extremely important.  
"it is essential to live a balanced life"

*"Toilet paper, flour, tomato sauce... and if you can believe it, holiday rental properties."*

*All essential, and all in high demand.*

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Rose

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[greatoceanroadholidays.com.au](http://greatoceanroadholidays.com.au)

PHOTO: Leon Walker



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# MASKS MAKE A STATEMENT

The dictum is that every adult must wear a mask, and this has led to some interesting statements – from no-nonsense, practical throwaway versions to the most colourful, hand-made numbers that are washable and reusable.

Never one to ignore opportunity, Keith Miller, Commodore at the Lorne Angling and Aquatic Club clearly saw promotional possibilities and organised the Club's merchandise supplier to get busy.

Richard Silby, from RJS Corporate Services came up with three-layer masks that are washable, and feature the LAAC logo on the side. If you've got problems getting the masks, email Keith. keith.miller@live.com.au Money raised will go to local charities.

**Front page - Mila who works for the company gladly posed for a photo.**

You can get the mask, \$8 each from

Kafe Kaos, 1/52 Mountjoy Parade, 5289 2639  
During opening hours.

# LORNE: GREAT AS IT IS

Just add a dollop more  
culture please **Ernest Raetz**

Famous last words. A year ago, the ABC ran a story on problems caused by the tourist boom in towns along the Great Ocean Road. A local resident said, 'everyone has discovered our secret', and there was now 'no way of stopping' tourism.

Tragically, how wrong he was! But what is that secret to which he referred?

Last month the Lorne Independent (August, page 7) reported on the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority which has been set up to protect our coast and parks for future generations.

As a consequence of this newly-minted State Government body – and the chaos wrought by Covid-19, where medical science focused on the genetic makeup of this virus in order to understand it – Lorne is now similarly tasked to analyse its 'Tourism DNA'. In this way we are to create an 'economic vaccine' for a more sustainable, profitable tourism industry in the uncertain years ahead.

DNA constantly changes through mutations. These may be harmful, helpful, or sometimes even cause dramatic changes in an organism. Which has certainly happened to tourism.

Accordingly, in the metaphor-laden world of marketing it's now important to 'map the DNA of your town'. 'Place DNA', believe it or not, has been registered as a destination marketing industry trademark.

Clearly, lessons learned from molecular science have replaced reading tea leaves, where we all see something different at the bottom of the cup. So, as last month's report exhorted, let's give this new test tube a good swirl and see what we come up with.

For me, Lorne is unique. I've travelled the Dalmatian and Amalfi coasts. Yet here in Lorne, a few minutes out of town we have natural vistas every bit as lofty and dramatic. We can drop down to a wide beach or narrow inlet, ringed by soft, golden sands.

The stunning sweep of Louttit Bay, between Stony Point and the Pier, is our front door, matching the world's best and most popular beaches. On the first weekend after the New Year it becomes the mecca for ocean swimmers, the famous Pier to Pub carnival, frequented by recreational and professional swimmers from Australia and around the world.

**Continued page 5**



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# “Think about who you love, then think about them in ICU.”

For Sarah, who’s been battling coronavirus for nearly 8 weeks, being separated from her two little boys, has been heartwrenching. On top of coronavirus attacking every one of her body systems, intense pain and acute breathing difficulty, she still has no idea when she will be well enough to see her boys. Sarah’s hope is that by us all doing the right thing, no one else will have to experience the heartache her family has.

Please, play your part and help stop the spread of the virus. If you have symptoms - please get tested. Payments of \$450 are available to help you stay home and wait for your test result.

To learn more of Sarah’s story go to [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](https://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)



### From page 3

Every now and then in mid-winter just a few short kilometres you can even make a snowman, or compete with your brine-soaked cousins down the hill by snowboarding on the slopes that lend Lorne its rare and enticing character – a coastal town flanked by mountains and rainforest. This relatively still pristine and highly varied natural environment is our core asset.

The attractions for walkers are stupendous – along the beach one day, by a river the next, to waterfalls, deep fern gullies and a cliff-top ocean look out where eagles swoop below. Walks build appetites, and to satisfy them as well as cater for the palates of less active gourmets, there are cafes and restaurants a-plenty.

None of this is a revelation. Others reached similar conclusions and long ago discovered our ‘secret’. According to Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism, GOR visitors had increased by almost 40 per cent in the past decade, with a 63 per cent increase in international tourists.

Admittedly, given Port Campbell and the 12 Apostles are often the ultimate destination, a lot of these were funneled through, rather than lavished on Lorne. That may, and hopefully will change, especially if we do our homework during this down time.

As one destination marketing web site put it, citing a US case study, this requires a town to ‘stand up, square its shoulders, and face issues head-on’.

One issue we should square up to is to balance the town’s natural and sporting attractions with greater focus on cultural activity in the arts and sciences. Now that many holiday houses are taking on a semi-permanent character, which may continue post-pandemic, this would cater for a wider range of community interests.

Lorne has a brilliant head start with its Sculpture Biennale, Qdos art scene and Easter Art Show. Many leading science researchers come to Lorne for their annual conferences. Both can serve as a launch pad for greater things.

For example, we could build and support facilities for scholars and students working in land and marine based environmental science, ecology and conservation. Lorne could become a base for workshops, study camps and research projects. With our earlier mentioned attributes, it would attract not only local, but international scholars when air travel returns.

Ditto the arts. Graeme Wilkie has set an example of what can be done with sculpture, pottery and painting. Again, these could bring additional practitioners and students, creating a more vibrant and diverse town. Lorne could foster other fields, maybe through writers’ retreats and a film festival, for which green shoots already exist.

Irrespective of how Lorne’s tourist attributes evolve from this current process of unnatural selection, people will continue to come as they always have: for the intoxication of sun, sand and sea; for their post-pubescent fumbles; their honeymoon; a safe beach for resultant offspring; an escape from the weekday world of work and city – I used to feel my blood



Lorne as we all know it. Art reflects history, Sculpture Biennale 2014.

pressure drop turning off Geelong Rd towards Lorne – and, finally, for retirement, during which Lorne’s many offerings will enchant their grandkids.

And so the cycle continues!

*“You need to respect other people and their home environments. You have to choose to avoid places that are struggling with high tourist numbers. You have to cut down on waste, cut down on plastic use, and only stay with hotels and tour companies that do the same. You need to consider your accommodation and how that affects the harmony of local communities.”*

*“You have to think about the welfare of the people you pay money to visit, and the impact your presence will have on them. You have to think about the welfare of animals and wildlife that you come into contact with. You have to think about the food you eat and whether it is sustainable and ultimately beneficial.”*

**Ben Groundwater, Traveller Magazine**

**‘Tourism as part of the community’**

*“Tourism needs to be a dynamic part of its community – its story-teller, a supporter of its art, music, environmental and food scenes, a collaborator with those protecting its natural assets and with those who are providing community support during tough times. In this way, you are not just in the community but part OF the community.”*

*“Knowing WHO you are as a destination means you will have bountiful opportunities to differentiate your marketing campaigns and better control your marketing management, because you will have identified and attracted the right visitors – those who will relate to your community, share its values, linger and engage. You will attract those visitors who add value to the community, not simply add to the mass.”*

**Suzanna Cavanagh**  
**Tourism and tourist marketing,**  
**Director, Creating Planning Media**



From the Deck by John Agar

# REMEMBERING BENWERRIN

For a lifetime, my Gaelic highland soul has whispered ‘Scotland ... Scotland ...’ each time I have crested that endless uphill climb out of Deans Marsh, or the not-one-downward-centimetre ascent from the Lorne side to reach the mystical ... Benwerrin.

Gaelic origins: ‘Ben’ for mountain: ‘Werrin’ for ... hmmm? But it just had to be so.

I pored over my Gaelic dictionary and my ‘ye Olde and Ancienne maps of Alba’, but no ‘werrin’ ... not a one!

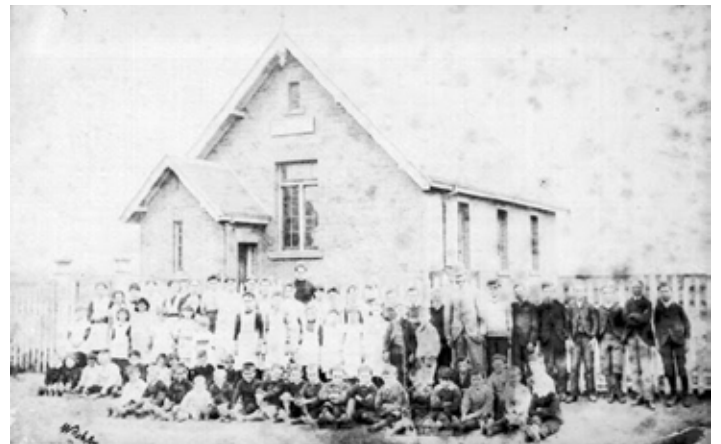
Was the ‘mountain’ named after a person, perhaps? But no Werrins can be found among the names of the early settlers.

Then, the penny dropped ... and it should have dropped earlier. Might ‘benwerrin’ be an aboriginal derivative? Bingo! ... references for benwerrin as an aboriginal ‘place name’ popped up everywhere. Deakin University’s Research Repository and the Australian Government’s ‘The Aborigines of Victoria’ were two of the sites, though there were plenty of others.

1. <http://dro.deakin.edu.au/eserv/DU:30111533/saxton1907victoriaplacenames-text.htm> See under ‘B’

2. [https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/digitised\\_collections/collectors\\_of\\_words/smyth/m0053739\\_a.pdf](https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/digitised_collections/collectors_of_words/smyth/m0053739_a.pdf) See Page 197

Benwerrin is multi-recorded as an aboriginal word for ‘big hill’ or ‘long hill’. From this, I have made the [unsupported] assumption that benwerrin must derive from the Gadubanud people of the Otways, for I could find no other evidence – anywhere – for the use of the word ... other than ‘our’ Benwerrin. And, given the delight I derived as a child when my dad would switch off his Plymouth engine and freewheel down the long grade from the very top of Benwerrin to roll silently into my grandmothers’ garage above the Swing Bridge, how fitting and apt that aboriginal name seems to be. Even the crawling paced ‘flat spot’ just on the Lorne side of the 5-mile track couldn’t defeat us, though we all had to desperately rock back and forth to urge the car to maintain its speed.



<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/770730>

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for your complimentary consultation*

Then there is 'Big Hill Track' ... it begins just 100m on the Deans Marsh side of the Benwerrin junction where there is now a small and delightful camp site. But here's the thing: Big Hill Track goes nowhere near 'Big Hill' as we now think of it – that lump of a hill between Grassy Creek and the S-bend.

Rather, the track follows the Stony creek ridge to meet the coast at the top of Summerhills Avenue in North Lorne. No, Big Hill Track derives its name from Benwerrin – the original 'big hill'. The current usurper [with apologies to those who now live there] only hijacked the name much later, during the construction of the Great Ocean Road.

There was so much more to Benwerrin than the modern 21st century eye can now see. Benwerrin was a small township ... our Lorne oracle, Doug Stirling, sites it on Big Hill Track near the site of the current small campsite.

The Benwerrin school [see picture] at one point enrolled up to 60 students when it amalgamated with nearby Boonah, educating the children of the mine and timber workers [Reference: Museums Victoria]

Benwerrin once supported an extensive logging industry in the high Otway, the Armistead and Babington mills being two in the immediate Lorne district. While Babington's mill closed in 1989, the remains of the mill can still be explored on the Sabine Road that winds along the Otway spine – a visible and poignant reminder of a distant, different past. Love or hate the timber history of Lorne's hinterland, it was a history created by a tough and gnarly breed of men.

The remnants of a profitable coal mine, the Great Western Coal Mine that was operated by the Great Western Colliery Company, now moulders under the encroaching Reedy creek bush [~38°27'37"S:143°56'52"E] to the north-east of 'the sand-pits' on the Deans Marsh side of the crest. Platinum was discovered here, too, though it was never actively mined. The railway line to Deans Marsh extracted some 6,800 tons of coal before the profitability of the mine wavered. It closed in 1927.

Of key importance to the traveller to Lorne, the Benwerrin General Store and Tea-rooms was a staging point for the Cobb & Co. coaches that plied the 'big hill' to and fro between the railhead at Deans Marsh and the guesthouses and hotels of Lorne that were flourishing by the end of the 19th century. The climb was arduous – from both sides – with thick, almost impassable mud from late autumn into spring. A rest for the horses, a pot of Devonshire tea and fresh scones with raspberry jam for the passengers, and washroom to remove the caked mud ... all were much appreciated 'essentials' for travellers from both ends.

When I was small, my mother would regale me with stories of her end-of-term return home to her mum in Lorne after boarding during the school term with her Curnow grandparents on Eastern Beach, Geelong.



<http://zades.com.au/gandd/index.php/geelong/research/gdpostof>

After taking the train to Deans Marsh, she would climb aboard the Cobb & Co. coach, my gran waiting nervously on Mountjoy Parade. All too frequently, the coach would lurch to a halt, the passengers would dismount, find hand holds, and push as thick, black soil clutched and cloyed the axles. Also all too frequently, after taking 'a header' into the mud when the coach broke free and lurched forward, it would catch and stick again. More pushing ... another header ... more mud! Mrs Henderson's tea, scones, fire, and washroom were traveller bliss!

Sadly, the Benwerrin Tea-rooms closed in 1927 when the Great Ocean Road finally won access supremacy over the long slog from Deans Marsh, despite that in the early days, the coastal road was little better, quicker, or cleaner than breasting the 'big hill'.

The small settlement soon began to struggle. While the timber industry was in slow decline, tourism was growing through the novel mobility provided by the automobile. The new breed of visitors, it seemed, placed more value on a pristine forest than on a harvested one. The Great Ocean Road was also proving to be a more seductive, scenic route than the hard up and down slog over the ranges. Gippsland coal was easier to extract from the Latrobe Valley open cuts than was Otway coal from an underground mine, despite that Otway coal was of better quality. And so, the mine closed too. The *raison d'être* for the hamlet at Benwerrin was fading.

Finally, decline turned to tragedy when in 1939 when the Black Friday fires utterly erased every last remnant of the settlement from memory. Nothing was left: nothing.

Today, although 'virgin bush' has now utterly reclaimed the site, remembering Benwerrin seems the least we can do.

# Surf Coast Shire Council postal election

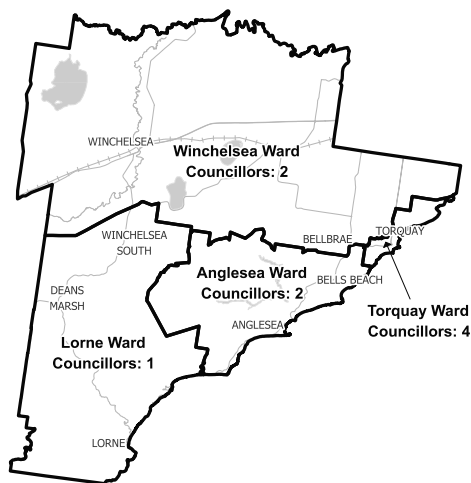
Your council, your vote



## Vote by post this October

### Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Surf Coast Shire Council election from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Return your completed ballot material by mail ASAP or hand-deliver it to the Election Manager by the close of voting at **6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020**.



### If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by writing to:

Election Manager  
Surf Coast Shire Council election  
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to:

[redirections@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:redirections@vec.vic.gov.au)

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request.

Requests for redirection must be received by  
**Thursday 17 September 2020**.

### Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

### Request an early postal vote

To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on 1300 140 714 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

### How to nominate as a candidate

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Surf Coast Shire Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020** until **12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:

40 Baines Crescent, Torquay

Visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the Election Manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the Election Manager from **Wednesday 16 September 2020** on 1300 140 714 to make a nomination appointment.

### Online candidate information session

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the VEC's recorded candidate information session can be streamed online from **Thursday 3 September 2020** complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information video. To watch the information session or find out how to join an online interactive seminar, visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

## Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 22 September

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | 131 832

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• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer  
• 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin  
• فارسي 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian  
• Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish  
• Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.





# THE LOUTTIT LOOP

“We closed, we opened, we closed, we opened and now we are closed until further notice.” So reports Commodore Keith from the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club. Says it all really! Even Jason’s popular Coffee Cart closed for August. Keith pleads for everyone to please “do the right thing and we can reopen sooner rather than later and our lives can get back to normal!” Oh happy day!

*Actually Lorne now has two Commodores! North Lorne’s Greg Marino recently won a hotly contested election with a resounding victory to take the helm at the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron!! Fiercely competitive, Greg sails a Farr 38 IMS named Portofino. Despite all this Greg and delightful Jenny have settled into their Lorne home and are loving the ambience!! Greg will now be progressing the building masterplan and major improvements to the club house and onshore facilities from Lorne!*

One gets grumpy easily in ISO I reckon. I see red every time the Woolworths truck comes up my street delivering to Lorne homes! We have a great Supermarket right here in Lorne – IGA Foodworks – in case you haven’t noticed. They really care and stock almost everything! They too will pick up your order and deliver it to the door for a tiny charge, and they are local! Why not bite the bullet and use the local! Use it or lose it! Please. Order online.

*And while we’re discussing being loyal to the local operators – foreign Bins and Skips are appearing in town – but we have our own hardworking gorgeous guy – Ali on 0400 096 084 who has big little and middle size skips and offers extraordinary service. Car due for a service? Get it done here in Lorne by Paul Spizzica and his team on 0408 579868 up in the Industrial Estate. Can’t stand the muddy driveway any more – don’t ring your Italian mate from Melbourne – Dawson Brothers have done almost every drive in Lorne and a great job they do as well 0404 892 204. Etc. etc etc. Get the message?*

Congratulations to two new sets of first-time Grandparents! Chris and Pearce McCaffrey welcome Baby Olive Nell Mitchell, and Keith and Jenni Miller are thrilled with the arrival of little Jack William Miller! Suzanne and Kevin Diviny welcomed David and Jane’s first child – Rose Betty Diviny. As someone wise once remarked – “If we’d known how great it was to have Grandkids, we’d have had them first!” Let the fun begin!

*Joy Dwyer recently resigned from the Lorne Hospital after many years, firstly as a volunteer and then in various vital positions where her knowledge and energy were just so appreciated. It was a great day when Joy and Leo arrived in Lorne as they have both given so much to our community.*

In case you missed noticing, the book shop ownership has passed from David and Meryl to locals – Caroline and Wayne. Good luck to each of you.

*Ex popular Lornite Bonnie Castle has turned 101! Residing on the other side of the Queenscliff Ferry trip, those who knew dear Bonnie will have great memories of time spent with her. Go Pies!*

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is reminding Victorians that with Spring in the air, so too are swooping birds (mostly males) to keep us away from their young and disturbing their breeding habits! Some tips to avoid being swooped: Know and avoid local swooping spots; move quickly,

but don’t run; Cover your head with a hat, helmet, umbrella or stick and consider drawing a pair of ‘eyes’ on the back of head gear; and do not harass or feed wildlife! It is an offence to kill, take, control or harm wildlife in Victoria.

*Sadly the Lorne Community Connect Art Project had to be postponed due to Stage 3 Restrictions. A collection of 30 paintings by Bob Sinclair, created daily over one month, looked so interesting one hopes they’ll be on show when this weird time passes!*

Lots of movement in Mountjoy Parade: Ganda’s shops near the temporarily closed Op Shop are getting their verandahs after massive renos, the Indian is rumoured to be moving into the old Maple Tree shop, the Arab has been dramatically transformed into a laddidiah fish and chip restaurant/shop – Captain Hooked by Lior, the owner of Chop Stix noodle bar. Also an art gallery has popped up in Sue Thomas’ gorgeous homewares shop (which we hope will be emerging elsewhere in town as will Coastal Diva).

*Stage 3 Restrictions declare that no visitors at all are allowed in the home – except for Intimate Partners! Now there’s a tempting statement if ever there was one!*

Sad to hear of the death of Julie Rodman’s Mum, Irene, in our Nursing Home. She resided there for the last five years. It’s so terrible when your Mum passes. Sympathies to all.

*Despite a May statement to the effect that the Falls Festival would not be held but may be relocated, the Surfcoast Times had an article announcing it actually would go ahead. But on the last week in August it was a definite no go as the Corona Virus is still causing all sorts of problems!*

So many sewing machines have been removed from cupboards, dusted down and put to good use making masks. At Kafe Kaos one can purchase a most excellent black mask for \$8 c/w Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club logo! These have sold out a couple of times, and no wonder. Cash in the jar please – to be distributed to various Lorne charities. Can recommend grabbing an excellent coffee while you are there.

*Divine photo of Paki Henry and his two dogs in the local newspaper on being the first Lorne Legend named in Lorne Central’s Facebook competition.*

Beaut to see Darren moseying round Lorne on his new blue electric bike. Runs on a battery pack parked on the parcel rack. Way to go mate!

*Want to send someone in Lorne a hamper? Free delivery from Cellarbrations! Also available from Taste Lifestyles, and a yummy meal can be delivered as a surprise gift from Movida.*

Believe it or not the side-of-the-GOR “Free Range Eggs” sign, money container and even the orange Esky have once more been stolen! A pretty low act you have to agree! Mind you last time most of it was returned a week or so later. Fingers crossed.

*The “Fill up in Lorne. No fuel in Apollo Bay” sign has one wondering?? Miss Lillian Marple can report that one of the two servos closed down a while ago, and the other is closed for repairs and renovations! So what about the locals? They have to buy petrol in containers! Not plastic bags like in Bali one hopes.*

Taking a stroll on our beautiful golf course on a high tide day, we were amazed to FIND the brightest fluorescent impossible-to-lose orange golf ball, as well as two white ones on the 4th – one labeled “lady’s” and the other “laddys”! One does indeed wonder what the difference actually is between ladys and laddys balls!

Just a ‘d’ probably.

*Apparently the kangaroo count at the Country Club is round 26 and growing daily!*

A sad belated farewell to Vivien Scheffer’s gorgeous greyhound. Hope she’s got or getting another as its just too damned lonely these days to be without man’s best friend!

..Lillian

# Better pharmacy experience leads to increased medicine adherence

There is a link between the perceived quality of care provided by community pharmacists and patients' adherence to prescribed medicine, new Australian research has shown.

The study, conducted by researchers from the University of Sydney Pharmacy School and published in Patient Education and Counselling recently, found both perceived service quality and medicine adherence were rated lower among patients recruited from pharmacies with a focus on price, when compared to those with a focus on service.

Key points:

- Pharmacists speaking with patients and appearing technically competent improves medicine adherence
- Patients value a comfortable pharmacy environment
- Building supportive relationships is key.

'When community pharmacies are deliberately designed and managed to provide person-centred care, their clients report improved adherence to their medication,' said Dr Carl Schneider, a senior lecturer in Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney.



**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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## deluxe

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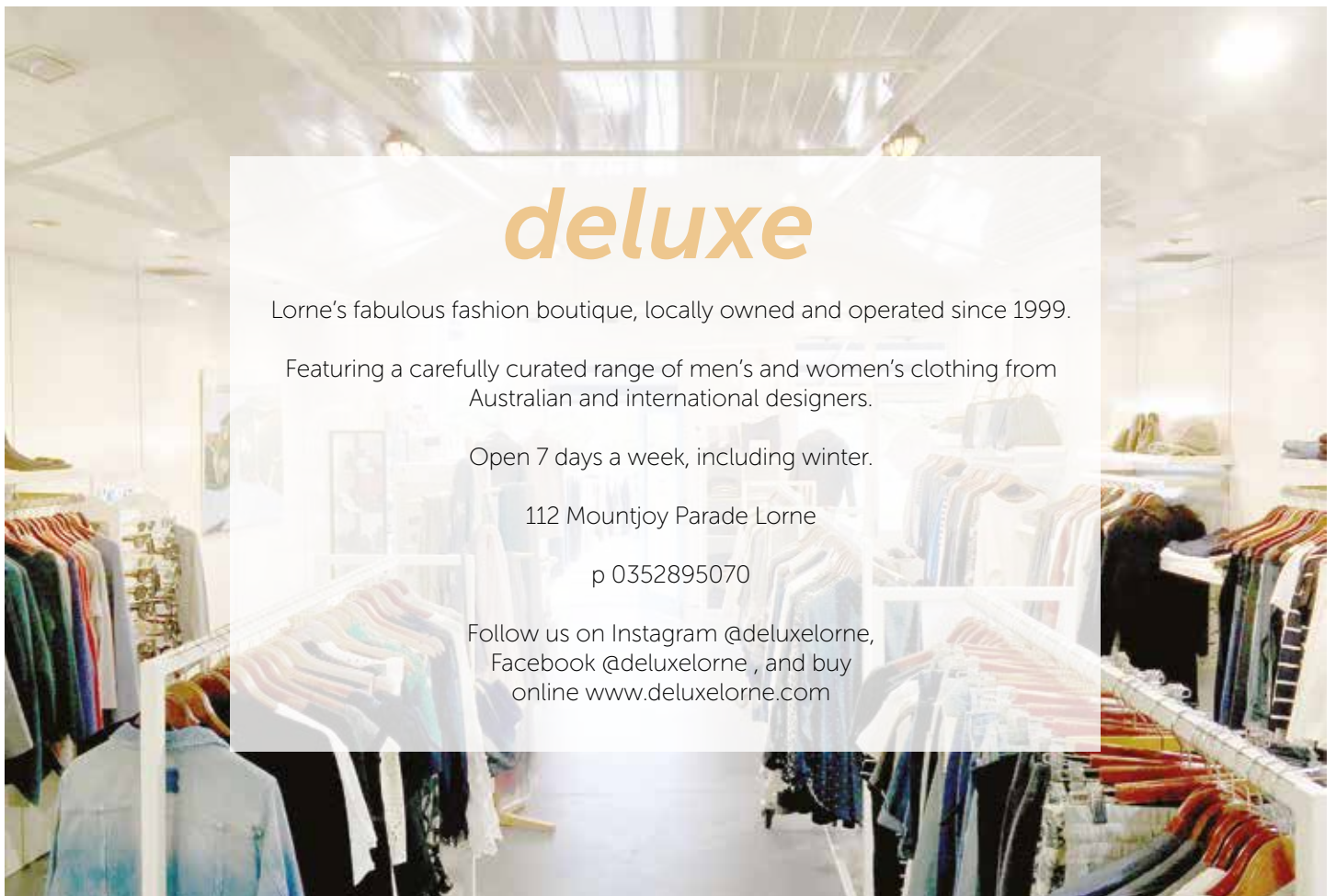
Featuring a carefully curated range of men's and women's clothing from Australian and international designers.

Open 7 days a week, including winter.

112 Mountjoy Parade Lorne

p 0352895070

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# WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF LIVING IN BUSHFIRE-PRONE REGIONS?

by Friends of Lorne & Aireys Inlet & District Ass. Inc.

In the wake of the extreme bushfires of the 2019/20 season, we present a series of three webinars on fire featuring six eminent Australians

## About this Event

Unplanned fires are not just a feature of Australian landscapes. They are increasing in extent and effect on a global scale. In this series we try to reach a broad understanding of the factors that play out in fires and what we can do about their adverse consequences.

- What do we know about fire history, will history be repeated, what are the effects on ecosystems and human settlements?
- Why do fires start and why do they spread?
- What can we do to limit future damage to natural systems and human communities?

These and other topics will be covered in three, sixty minute webinars with Australian experts, some of whom have first-hand experience of losing a family home to a bushfire. Our focus is on the Otways, on the Great Ocean Road of Victoria. On hand at each session will be professional and volunteer experts from a range of local organisations.

About half of each session will be allocated to Q&A from the audience.

Taken together these sessions make up a journey through the many aspects of fire that we need to think about now and in the future. They end with a focus on planning and practicalities.

Please join us in thinking about how we can limit the damage caused by unplanned fires in the future.

EVENT DATES AND TIMES (AEST) - note the time of day is different for each session.

Session 1: Thursday 10 September, 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

Past present and future of unplanned fires

- David Lindenmayer. Long-term insights into the impacts of, and responses to, wildfires in Victoria
- Stephen Farrell. Trends, Futures & Extreme Events

Session 2: Monday 14 September, 10:00 - 11:00 am.

The drivers of unplanned fires

- Janet Stanley. The human factors
- Kevin Tolhurst. Fires in the Otways – case studies

Session 3: Thursday 17 September. 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

Where to from here? Planning for unplanned fires

- Barbara Norman. Coastal planning: pathways and tools for increasing community resilience
- Justin Leonard. Managing the urban interface

## Information About The Speakers

**David Lindenmayer (Australian National University) AO, FAA**

David is a field ecologist and conservation biologist. He is involved in the running of many long-term trials aimed at understanding and conserving biodiversity in landscapes, particularly forests. These programs enable him to speak from an unparalleled evidence base on the impact of fire on ecosystems and the recovery of species after fire.

**Steven Farrell (Spatial Vision)**

Stephen is a founding partner of Spatial Vision, and a forester by background. Spatial vision in partnership with DELWP, recently mapped the predicted impact of erosion and inundation along the coast line of Victoria, including the Otways region. Stephen is currently consulting to several Shire Councils about extreme events in the Otways/Barwon region.

**Janet Stanley (University of Melbourne)**

Janet works at the interface between social, environmental and economic issues, from policy to community levels. She has specialised in unplanned fires and arson and is the lead author of 'Feeling the heat. International perspectives on the prevention of wildfire ignition' (2020)

**Kevin Tolhurst (University of Melbourne) AM**

Kevin works on fire behaviour and fire suppression strategies. He has been involved in developing computer simulation models to better understand the drivers of fires and to predict their behaviour in real-time events. Kevin has been involved in several inquiries involving fires, including Royal Commissions:

**Barbara Norman (University of Canberra)**

Barbara is an urban and regional planner who has worked in both the private and public sectors. Her interests include sustainable cities and regions, coastal planning, and urban governance. She is a co-author of the recently released handbook, 'Land use planning for disaster resilient communities'.

**Justin Leonard (CSIRO)**

Justin works on the interaction of bushfires with urban infrastructure, including how the design and siting of houses and their surrounds affects the severity of losses in different types of bushfires. He is also interested in behavioural solutions to vulnerabilities and in fire fighter safety.

**For more information and to register, go to Eventbrite and search for the title "What's the future of living in bushfire-prone regions", or use this link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/whats-the-future-of-living-in-bushfire-prone-regions-tickets-117933559451>

# FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

For the Lorne Ward Cr Clive Goldsworthy - 0400 756 854 [lorneward.information@gmail.com](mailto:lorneward.information@gmail.com)



Well we are now into the 3rd Week of Stage 3 lockdown, apart from having too many zoom meetings, eating too much and walking each day I have still had time to research statistics, a favourite pastime of mine !

## Surf Coast Shire

Recent statistics show there is approximately 3,800 local businesses employing just under 14,000 persons. Accommodation & Food Services account for 16% in comparison to the total in Victoria of 6.6%, Retail is 12.1% - (10.2%), Construction 11.1% (8.3%) and Health Care 9.1% (12.5%).

COVID-19 has seriously impacted these businesses with over 48.9% of all businesses in the Shire applying for JobKeeper. The Shire was ranked 13th out of the 506 Local Government Areas in Australia. The following list shows the top 13 LGA's.

1. Byron Bay Shire (NSW) 67%
2. Douglas Shire (Qld) 64.2%
3. Shark Bay Shire (WA) 63.2%
4. Exmouth Shire (WA) 61%
5. Augusta – Margaret River Shire (WA) 54.4%
6. Break O'Day Shire (Tas) 51.2%
7. Tweed Shire (NSW) 51.1%
8. Denmark Shire (WA) 50.7%
9. Noosa Shire (Qld) 50.3%
10. Dundas Shire (WA) 50%
11. Moreland City Council (Vic) 49.7%
12. Unidentifiable
13. Surf Coast Shire (Vic) 48.9%

Interestingly Colac was ranked 270 at 32.5%, there were 15 LGA's with 0%.

JobSeeker and Youth allowance recipients in the Surfcoast is 7.8% of all 15-64 age

Population against the Regional average of 11.1%.  
Winchelsea 322 (8.8%),

Lorne-Anglesea 264 (8.4%) and Torquay 977 (7.6%)

## JobKeeper

JobKeeper Payment is one of the largest fiscal and labour market interventions in Australia's economic history. The JobKeeper Payment was developed in the second half of March in response to a steep deterioration in economic activity and employment.

JobKeeper had three objectives: supporting business and job survival, preserving the employment relationship, and providing needed income support.

The program has had a large take-up, at over 920,000 organisations and around 3.5 million individuals over the April-May period. It has wide coverage, representing over 30 per cent of pre-Coronavirus levels of private sector employment, with organisations and individuals supported in all sectors, across all parts of the country. As at 23 June 2020, payments have totalled \$20.3 billion over the four payment fortnights to 24 May, equivalent to 7.0 per cent of pro-rata March quarter gross national income.

Accommodation & Food Services have approximately 57,650 organisations that have applied for JobKeeper with 55.9% of individuals in this sector being supported by JobKeeper. In comparison Construction has approximately 130,000 organisations that have applied for JobKeeper however only 26.2% of individuals in this sector requiring JobKeeper.

JobKeeper and other fiscal support, bank forbearance and temporary law changes has greatly assisted businesses over the past six months, however, the recent Stage 4 lockdown in suburban Melbourne and Stage 3 in Regional Victoria could easily spin the Victorian economy into a downward spiral. With JobKeeper now being extended until the 28th March 2021 let's hope our local businesses will survive. Please support them whenever possible.

**Stay Safe,  
Look out for your neighbours,  
Be kind and smile behind your mask!!**

*Source documents and statistics The Department of Treasury and REMPLAN*

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# EDITORIAL

## The ZOOM dinner party

Rafaella and husband Jake had arranged the ZOOM dinner party for Saturday. “Well, with this lock-down, you’ve got nothing better to do, have you?” she inquired.

Many calls were made and received over the next days and careful planning went into the menu. A starter, main course, and a sweet, but nothing too elaborate ... Oh let’s admit it, we were a bunch of virgins at this dinner-party romance!

And so it came to pass that six adults of mature age sat down exactly on the dot of 7.30pm one rainy Saturday, to experience their first-ever ZOOM dinner party. Our actual locations ranged from the depth of inner Melbourne to a farm near Benalla and Lorne.

Rafaella and husband Jake played ‘host’ and ‘hostess’.

The initial task was to set the lap-top into a position which allowed a good view of our dinner table and us, and to have a clear view of fellow-guests, all of us neat in three frames. Not an easy task, but after about twenty minutes of fiddling, placing the screen this way and that, and continuously checking – “How’s that, Jake?” “Is the angle right?” “Push it down a bit, I’m only getting the top of your head!” – six people were able to glare at each other via the screen.

A couple of faces disappeared when the first course arrived, then more disruption and fiddling with the screen and needless to say, conversation consisted of squirts of words and incomplete sentences.

A lot of dishes proved to be a nuisance, we quickly learned. A minimal menu would have worked best.

It also became obvious too that people in real life act differently to what they showed at a ZOOM dinner party. Robin, usually witty and convivial, had now reverted to a boring grump. He kept fiddling with his screen. “Just don’t touch it,” wife Jane yelled at one stage.

“But I’m only getting Jake’s head.”

“Well, he’s got to adjust it, not you!”

“Jake, can you move towards the camera a little?” The tone of his voice was anything but gracious.

Jane kept finding things to do and in and out of the screen she went. Judging by her long sighs, she plainly considered the whole event idiotic.

A good 40 minutes had passed by the time the main course had hit the table. The casserole pot, the chicken pie with salad did well.

The steak and oven-cooked vegetables less so – we hardly saw anything of Robin and Jane all evening.

Irritating, constant questions floated from one frame to the other: “How much time have we got left?” “Do they just cut you off?” “They do extend it into extra time, don’t they?”

We usually get on well together and past dinners had been memorable for the subjects discussed, the wonderful food and glorious taste of good wine, the sheer exuberance of sharing a meal, but this... this ZOOM evening with its stilted conversation, the constant disruptions, the sheer awkwardness of the situation ...the potential end to our friendship loomed large!

The relief was collective when Jake announced that time was nearly up and we had better say goodbye now ...and we duly grinned at each other, murmured appreciations and what a good idea Rafaella had to organise the dinner ...yes, in our time of a pandemic a boost was essential. A real tonic!

Each couple clicked off and finally we too stared at a flickering silvery screen. “And that’s that.” I growled. “Now I can finish my dinner ...”

Clearly, successful ZOOM dinner parties are still in their infancies. - JV



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Drop by and meet branch manager **Andrew Shaw** and the team at the CommBank Lorne branch today, or call us on **(03) 5289 1415**.

**CommBank Lorne branch**  
68 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne.



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

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hello@thepeaklorne.com

# NEW OWNERS FOR LORNE BEACH BOOKS

Yes that's right, Lorne Beach Books has been bought by locals Wayne Bryant and Caroline Hirzel-Bryant. Caroline and Wayne have now taken over the shop which was established by Meryl and David Bartak around twenty years ago. The great news for customers is that the shop will be still owned by locals, employ the same knowledgeable staff, and offer the broadest range of books at competitive prices.

Many of us will know Caroline from seeing her walking her dog named Tom (a cavoodle with three legs) along Lorne's dog beach – and often with daughter Grace and her dog named Daphne. Caroline was born in Zurich and moved to Lorne with husband Melbourne-born Wayne just over ten years ago. She is one of the small group of intrepid swimmers who swim in Louttit Bay at 8.00am nearly every morning OF THE YEAR – often without wetsuits! Wayne is a keen surfer who has a background in building and finance, and together they also run a rental accommodation in Lorne. Grace works in child care in Geelong and you may see her in the shop on weekends. Grace also has an interest in tarot reading. As a family they keenly express their love of Lorne – the ocean, forest and its community.

Buying a bookshop at this point in time might seem like a risky business with so much information being available electronically. Combined with that is the COVID-19 restrictions on travel, personal distancing and meeting in groups. However seeing and handling your own copy of a book is something special – it is much more than just the story or information contained. With most of our travel plans being put on serious hold, reading offers the pleasures of enjoyment and learning. Walking into the bookshop you feel that there are so many of the books that you would like to personally own – and the shop has a great range of games, puzzles and adult games to help us get through these crazy times.

Caroline and Wayne understand the benefit that they have of buying an already established well respected business.



They acknowledge the great work done by Meryl and David in setting up the shop and building the infrastructure, customer, and supplier base, and the good will that is so important to this type of retail business. The photograph, taken by daughter Grace, shows a proud Caroline and Wayne outside their shop.

Books that readers are enjoying at present include:

- Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens
- Fleishman Is In Trouble, by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
- The Bass Rock, by Evie Wyld
- The Dictionary of Lost Words, by Pip Williams
- The Luminaries, by Eleanor Catton
- The Dry, by Jane Harper
- Gogo Mama, by Sally Sara
- Phosphorescence, by Julia Baird
- Normal People, by Sally Rooney

And the Bluey series of children's books.

- John Ford

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Welcome to Wye9

Finished in Jan 2020 Wye9 captures beautiful treetop and beach views and is an ideal place to enjoy the lovely coastal hamlet of Wye River. Perfectly suited to couples or a small family, Wye9 features stylish multiple living areas across two stories, open plan kitchen dining and lounge, a rear deck and an expansive balcony that spans the entire upper level.

Walk, surf, ride bikes, cook, soak in the view or just chill out. This is not just another "holiday rental"; it is a warm, well-loved beach home and is set up for like-minded people to enjoy as the property owners do.

Reverse cycle heating/cooling and a wood burning fireplace maintain the perfect temperatures year-round.

Wye9 is about 750 meters walk to the beach or a 2-minute drive.

Happy to be dog friendly as well.

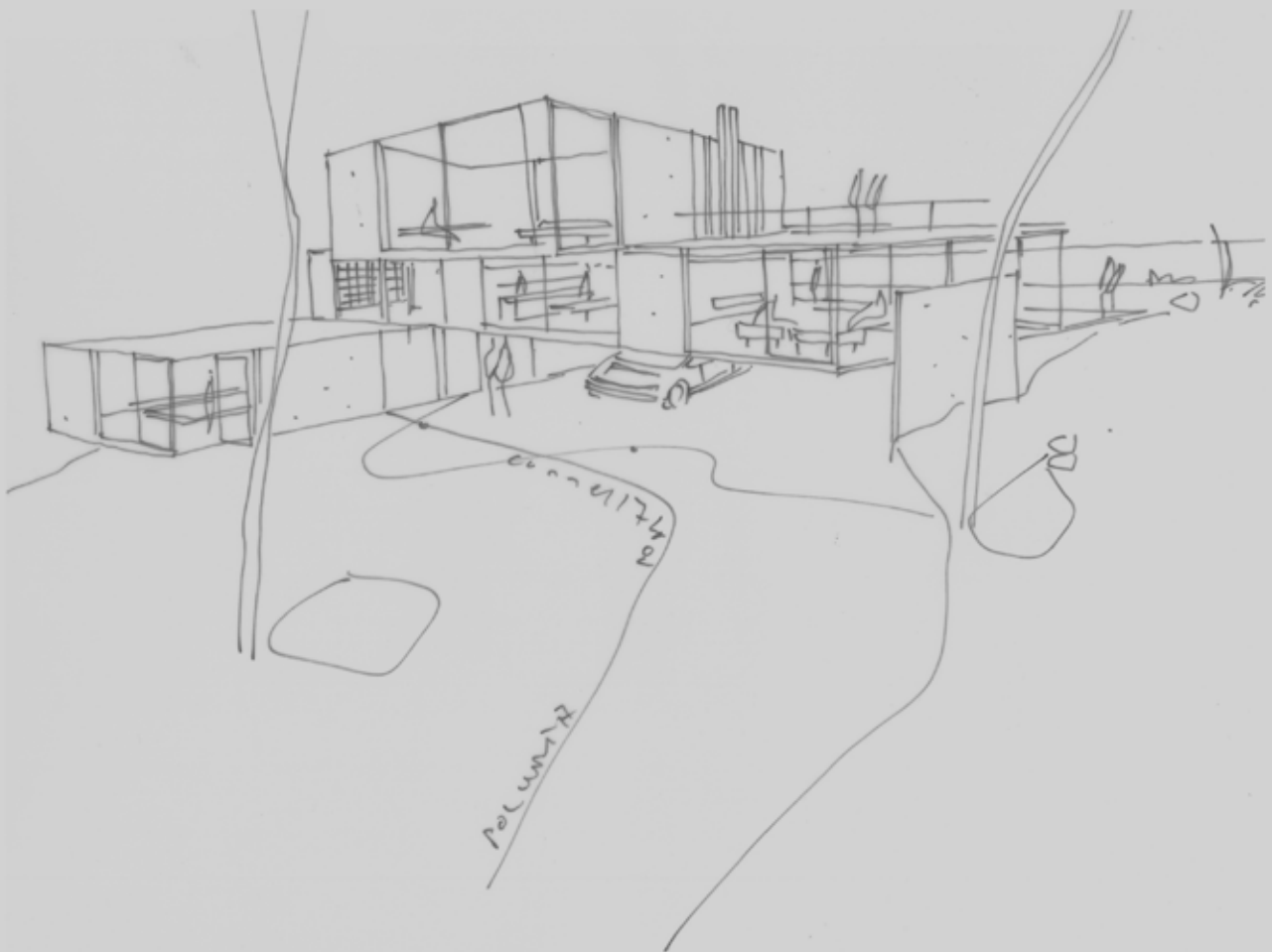
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# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

For the latest Council updates go to [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/covid19)



Where to find help

## Emergency and Food relief

**Uniting Barwon – Winchelsea**  
p. 0419 535 490

**Torquay Food Aid** p. 0409 614 630  
e. [torquayfoodaid@gmail.com](mailto:torquayfoodaid@gmail.com)

**Feed Me Surf Coast** p. 0422 441 205  
e. [feedmesurfcoast@gmail.com](mailto:feedmesurfcoast@gmail.com)

**SalvoConnect Barwon South West**  
p. 5223 9200 (Mon to Fri 9am – 3pm)

**Bethany Community Support**  
p. 5278 8122 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)

## Need help with everyday tasks?

**Surf Coast Angels** p. 0428 563 014  
e. [SurfcoastAngels@gmail.com](mailto:SurfcoastAngels@gmail.com)

## Housing and accommodation

**SalvoConnect Barwon South West (Adult)**  
p. 5223 5461 (Mon to Fri 9am – 3pm)

**Barwon Child, Youth and Family (Youth)**  
p. 5226 8900 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)

**Crisis Accommodation**  
p. 1800 825 955 (24 hours/7 days)

## Family violence

**The Orange Door**  
p. 1800 312 820 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)  
e. [barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au](mailto:barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au)

**The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre**  
p. 5222 4318 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)  
e. [reception@safvcentre.org.au](mailto:reception@safvcentre.org.au)

**Safe Steps**  
p. 1800 015 188 (24-hour phone service)  
e. [safesteps@safesteps.org.au](mailto:safesteps@safesteps.org.au)

## Mental health

To access local mental health support make an appointment with a GP/doctor.

**headspace Geelong (Youth)**  
p. 5222 6690 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)

**Beyond Blue** p. 1300 224 636 (24-hour phone service) [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

**Lifeline Australia** p. 13 11 14 (24-hour phone service) [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

## Alcohol and Other Drug Support

**Barwon Child, Youth and Family**  
p. 1300 022 293  
(Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm)

**Direct Line** Call 1800 888 236 (24-hour phone service)

## Financial hardship

**Australian Government support**  
[www.services.gov.au](http://www.services.gov.au)

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000**

## Stage 3 Stay at Home Restrictions

There are only 4 reasons to leave your home:



Shop for food and essential goods/services



Provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment



Exercise or for outdoor recreation with your household, or one other person



Work or study, if you can't do it from home

## Current restrictions in Surf Coast Shire:

In line with stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions, a number of outdoor facilities are subject to COVID-safe requirements and conditions, and others are closed to the public at this time.

Council's Customer Service is a phone and web-based service; you can lodge a request via our website [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lodgearequest](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lodgearequest), email us at [info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au) or phone **5261 0600**.

For more information on changes to Council services and facilities, go to: [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/covid19).

For the latest updates and information from the Department of Health and Human Services go to: [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) or call the 24-hour hotline: **1800 675 398**.



All Victorians, aged 12 years and over, need to wear a face covering when they leave home.



You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes.

## Community Spirit



Photographer: Mollie Vaughan

### Joining the pieces

**Community members from across the shire have answered the call to create a unique collaborative art piece.**

Participants from Council's Café Program, offering social connection opportunities for those aged 65 and over, contributed individually decorated puzzle pieces towards the shared creation, with 68 submissions received from across the shire.

The submissions included photos, paper craft and original artworks, as well as messages of kindness and hope.

The collective puzzle artwork has been shared with all Café Program participants in the form of a postcard, and the final work also formed a unique submission to PORTAL **#NotTheSurfCoastArtsTrail**.

To view the artworks visit: [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/cafeprogramjigsaw](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/cafeprogramjigsaw).

ANY SYMPTOMS  
HOWEVER MILD  
GET TESTED

The Premier has reinforced the need to get tested if you have even the mildest of symptoms. The more tests that are done the more data is available to inform where and when restrictions can be lifted.

### LOCAL TESTING LOCATIONS:

- **Torquay Community Health Centre**  
Call **4215 7815**. Open 9am – 5.30pm daily.
- **Lorne Community Hospital**  
Call **5289 4300**. Open 9am – 4pm daily.
- **Colac Area Health**  
Call **5232 5402**. Open 9am – 5pm daily.

**BOOKING REQUIRED AT ALL SITES.**

### CLICK & DELIVER SERVICE

All Geelong Regional Libraries' members who live within the Surf Coast Shire area can access the new **Click & Deliver Home Delivery Service**.

Further information [www.grlc.vic.gov.au](http://www.grlc.vic.gov.au)



**COVID-19 HOTLINE**  
**1800 675 398**



The COVIDSafe app speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus. Download from the App Store or Google Play.



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**FREE JOB SEEKER WEBINARS**  
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Surf Coast Shire would like to invite you to access professional support and guidance to kick-start your job-seeking efforts.

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 **Kim Bingham** - Kim brings over 11 years of experience as Managing Director of an employment agency. Kim understands what employers are seeking from candidates, understands industry and employment trends, as well as how to professionally present yourself for success. Kim is also a passionate wellness practitioner and life coach who helps people to manage stress and live their best life.

 **Mel Kearsey** - Mel is an experienced outplacement consultant with an extensive HR and recruitment background. Mel helps people discover their strengths, develop confidence and overcome fear. Mel will guide you through creating impactful resumes and cover letters and is passionate about helping people flourish.

Register @surfcoastyouth Facebook page

**WEBINAR 1**  
Deciding what to apply for and what jobs suit you, interpreting key selection criteria and understanding job descriptions nuances.  
**TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**  
5:30 - 6:15PM

**WEBINAR 2**  
Preparing a thoughtfully constructed resume and customised cover letter to enhance your chances of being short-listed for roles.  
**THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**  
5:30 - 6:15PM

**WEBINAR 3**  
How to respond to interview questions, managing nerves and self-doubt, what to wear and understanding body language.  
**TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**  
5:30 - 6:15PM

**WEBINAR 4**  
Establishing healthy work habits, keeping yourself employed, talking to your boss about issues, professional behavior and dress, managing stress.  
**THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**  
5:30 - 6:15PM

# OP-SHOP BUZZ

Janet Goud

**Hello and it's Spring!**

Yes, we are all missing many things and more especially our loved ones, but as I write, the first glimmers of hope are emerging from Melbourne's lock-down. So, fingers AND toes crossed, we will be back to serve you soon.

Of course, for those of us who work at the Op-Shop, the deprivation is twice as bad. No wonderful goods to unwrap, display and sell, and no fun times with our friends and co-workers. To address this feeling of lost comradeship as the lockdowns continue, the Op Shop Social Committee have devised a way we can keep in touch and learn a little more about each other through music.

Yes, we are about to have our own Op Shop soundtrack!

The Op Shop Volunteers have warmed to the simple idea of choosing a special song or piece of music which means something special to them and writing a short note about what they were doing at the time when this music came into their lives - and presumably where it takes them back to when they hear it.

From this information, we'll put together a soundtrack. Also, the little snippets of our lives which accompany our choices will provide a window into the backstory ... bemusing, intriguing or simply amazing.

So far, we have been taken to a dusty childhood in Adelaide where billy carts were made and tadpoles collected from the river Torrens, which was an elegy for guitarist Peter Green who died recently...

We have listened, while playing on the floor with siblings, to a grandfather expertly playing his violin in daily practice ....and we have watched wide eyed, the American Forces Big Band play swing music (Glenn Miller style) at the Regent Theatre in Ballarat....Just imagine what treasures are yet to be uncovered.

So, I leave you with the hopeful vision of the reopening of a musical Op Shop where you can join us to sing along or dance in the (narrow) aisles to the Op Shop Soundtrack beat!



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# SPORTSBRIEFS

John Ford

## Lockdown Period Continues

With regional Victoria still having to conform to Stage 3 restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the Stage 4 lockdown affecting greater Melbourne, organized sport has been decimated. Normally, Lorne would be gearing up for football and netball finals and many other sports including tennis would be well into their winter competitions.

The situation has been changing over the past few months, but since 5th August greater Melbourne has had to conform to Stage 4 restrictions, and for rural Victoria (including Lorne) Stage 3 restrictions. These will remain in force at least until 15th September.

Essentially, in Lorne we cannot be involved in any community sport, and all indoor sporting and recreational facilities remain closed. The following activities are permitted: fishing, boating, tennis, golf, surfing, cycling, running and walking. These all must be conducted within the parameters of social distancing and wearing face masks – except for running. There are many other provisions and some exceptions, but you should check with the co-ordinators of each sport for the exact rules being applied. An example of this is that tennis singles may be played, but only members of the same family may play doubles! However we all understand that there are bigger issues at stake than sport.

We are so fortunate here in Lorne to have such wonderful natural geography to inspire us. Walking, running and cycling in the fresh air can be done within the provisions of safe social distancing and all have enormous aerobic benefit. Swimming and surfing, while more associated with summer, are available for us all to enjoy. Whatever our sporting interests are, during this pandemic we are all on the same side, playing for the one team and striving for collective success – WE CAN DO IT!!!!

## Women's Golf

### Online Booking System

This month Lorne Country Club has started trialling an online booking system. This makes it easy to book a tee time and see when it's possible to play. Just go to [www.lornecountryclub.com.au](http://www.lornecountryclub.com.au), where you will see the booking button. There will probably be a few early glitches, so use the contact information if you have difficulties.

A good number of women living in Lorne are making the most of the permitted exercise of golf, knowing how important golf is to our health and wellbeing. We have been lucky with the weather on Tuesday mornings, our regular morning, when there have been growing numbers playing, even though only with two masked players at a time! New players are always welcome so give us a call if you would like to join in.

Rose Lloyd is certainly in winning form at the moment. She not only had the best score of the women playing for the day on a recent Tuesday, but put in her personal best stroke score.

Given that the course is now a little sludgy, this is a great sign for her summer game when hopefully we might be back to more sociable golf!

So even for those of us not playing so well, there are always beautiful views, lots of kangaroos and a good walk, including the surprising view of the large container ship this week.

Wendy Hutchison, President Womens Golf

## Lawn Bowls

Hopefully if we come out of Stage 3 restrictions plans are afoot to start midweek Pennant Matches in October as usual. We have been given a fixture but must await confirmation.

Meanwhile the Club is open to all Members if they book online ([secretary@lornebowlsclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@lornebowlsclub.com.au)) and follow restrictions listed.

A little note of Joy from Ken and I. Our second Great Grandchild has arrived. (If you are a David Bowie fan you will recognize the name) Ziggy Noel arrived safe and well. Still not had a nurse though.

Merna and Ken

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)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

## Curses on the Agapanthus

Over the years I have expressed concern about the spread of invasive weeds. Agapanthus is one that can be seen spreading alongside road verges - the Erskine Falls Road en route to the tip is but one example.

The Victorian Government website says this about pittosporum:

Sweet pittosporum invades dry coastal vegetation, heathland and heathy woodland, lowland grassland and grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and woodland, damp sclerophyll forest, wet sclerophyll forest, and riparian vegetation (Carr et al 1992).

And yet it has not been declared a noxious weed for some reason. I could not agree less. There are many instances along the coast where they are invading and can also be seen marching out of the Lorne township steadily up the Deans Marsh Road, now extending beyond the old tip site.

Boneseed, from South Africa, was once fairly restricted in its range but has recently taken off to proliferate - along the Great Ocean Road in particular. Both agapanthus and boneseed are on the list of invasive species as published by Agriculture Victoria.

So, what can be done to eradicate these weeds? As I see it, help is at hand.

During the pandemic the Lorne community have done an outstanding job in supporting the stranded backpackers who live among us. Paki Henry has set up a car wash service to provide jobs for some of these willing workers.

The labour force is right here, a labour force which could be provided with meaningful employment or even, simply, something meaningful in their lives by being engaged to clear the road verges, walking tracks and foreshores of these invasive weed species.

Perhaps local government might be proactive in this regard?

**Doug Williams - Lorne**

Dear Editor

## Cracks in the System

Each day that the COVID-19 pandemic persists, more cracks appear in the system. Our State and Federal leaders are engaged in the most grinding marathon of their lives. And it is far from over. Running on adrenaline, our leaders' minds and bodies must be near exhaustion. How could any of us endure such pressure day after day? These are the circumstances under which serious mistakes are likely to occur. A well-functioning public service should reduce the risk of mistakes, but we do not have a well-functioning public service; the evidence is painfully laid out before us each day. As our leaders tire, we can only expect the situation to deteriorate, placing all our lives and businesses at risk!

And as the Greek philosopher Euripides proclaimed in 400 BC, "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."

There are two fundamental causes of this failure of the public service. The first is the hollowing out of the public service due to ongoing austerity and cost cutting across all departments and over many decades. This has resulted in the loss of expertise and the breakdown of effective mentoring for new recruits.

The second is the replacement of dedicated fearless senior public servants with ideological hacks. Whilst in Government, all political parties are culpable. For example, when I started farming in the early 1960's, the Department of Agriculture believed it was in the public good to invest in research and extension as well as regulatory responsibilities. Over the intervening years the focus has changed to making the Minister look good. Both major parties are culpable here as well.

And so today we are faced with a charade of stuff ups; from border crossings for agricultural workers and produce, to meat works and wool auctions. Basically, the problem is we do not have the robust corporate knowledge left in the Departments to do the pre-planning, nor are they ready to offer sound advice when it is needed. Pity our leaders and pity us!

But all of us are derelict in our duty as citizens if we fail to ask who is responsible for this state of affairs, then persist until the answers are received.

**Peter Small - Gritjurk**

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Keith Miller  
Commodore



**Commodore's Notes**

Well we closed, we opened, we closed, we opened and now we are closed until further notice. Hopefully everyone will do the right thing and we can reopen sooner rather than later and our lives can get back to normal.

It's all hard to believe. I still wake up some mornings and think it's all a bad dream. We have been very lucky down here in our beautiful little bubble to have escaped any COVID-19 cases so fingers crossed that continues.

Hutch and his staff managed to open and run the club under difficult circumstances for a few weeks and they did a great job.

**Upcoming Events**

Depending on the stage 3 restrictions we have our next WINTER CUP FISHING COMPETITION sponsored by Surf Coast Gardening and Mowing planned for Sunday 13th September.

As usual the weigh in will start at midday with the cut off at 12.30pm. A free mixed grill for all competitors and members will follow the presentations at around 1pm.

Come and have a crack, especially the juniors.



Local fishing legend Wayne Griffiths with a nice gummy shark he caught recently

**Recent Events**

Unfortunately we were forced to cancel our August Winter Cup Fishing Competition.

There had been indirect contact with a positive COVID case who had visited Lorne by one of our members. Fortunately all the tests were negative but we didn't have

this information until after the comp date and decided to play it safe and cancel the comp.

Naturally Murphy's Law ensued, the weather was perfect, blue skies, no wind or swell and our last competition junior champ Jack Hunter fished off the pier and caught three beautiful big King George Whiting.

**First Time Fisher-Persons**

Since I've been on the committee I've taken out over 130 different people fishing in my boat.

I get asked regularly why I do it and sometimes get strange looks when I tell them that I get a bigger thrill watching and

helping people who don't get the chance to go out fishing very often than catching fish myself. Recently I've taken out a few first timers who have never been in a boat or even caught a fish. A couple of weeks ago I took out two young ladies who after catching their first ever fish both went on to catch over 20 fish each.

The looks on their faces was priceless. Most locals and a lot of our members will know Shiva Adhikari who has been managing Cafe Kaos for the last couple of years.

Shiva is from Nepal and had never caught a fish so we took him out for his first ever venture out into Bass Strait. He was a natural pulling in the first snapper for the day and going onto catch lots of different fish species. He had a sensational day.

We sent him home with a big bag full of fillets which I thought would have lasted him for a couple of weeks. Two days later I was speaking to his wife Sumi who works in the Deli at FoodWorks and I was amazed when she told me that they had already eaten the lot.



Shiva from Kafe Kaos with the first snapper of the day

**Albatrosses**

Of the three most common Albatrosses we find in our little part of Bass Strait the Indian Yellow Nosed Albatross is easily the least seen.

We have had one close to my boat several times recently but I have no way of knowing if it's the same bird or not.

The ones we see here most likely breed on Crozet and the Prince Edward Islands out in the middle of the Indian Ocean way off the coast of South Africa so they are a very long way from home. They start breeding at the age of eight and only lay one egg.

They are slightly smaller than our other Albatrosses but still have a wingspan of two metres.

Like most sea birds they have a salt gland on the top of their beak that desalinates their body



They are listed as an endangered species because of long lining and introduced diseases.

Indian Yellow Nosed Albatross

Continued page 23

From page 22

## Fishing Report

We had a sensational run of unseasonably good weather in July which allowed us all to get out fishing heaps. The winter flathead bite has continued which has been great because the snapper have been a bit hit and miss so if they aren't on the go you can always come home with a nice feed of good sized flathead.

Last week we had a great day on the snapper and caught 20 with the majority being over the 40cm mark. The next day we went back to the same spot on the same tide and could not lose our bait. That's why it's called fishing and not catching although I've got one mate who likes to constantly tell me and everyone else who will listen to him that, "He doesn't go fishing, he goes catching". I won't mention his name but he's member of the month.

There's been a few big gummy sharks around the old fiver foot mark being landed and the big Nannygai are still about in reasonably good numbers.



Jackass Morwong or Teraki are still abundant and there's been a few King George Whiting being caught. The pier is still fishing well with plenty of Salmon, Mullet, Trevally, Calamari, Snapper and whiting being caught.

*Tom Curran with a nice Nannygai he caught recently*

## Member of the Month



### Chris Nisbet

Chris Nisbet was born in Melbourne a very, very long time ago and grew up in Mt Waverley before it was discovered by the early explorers. He went to the Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary School from prep to grade 4 then on to De La Salle in Malvern. It was a very long trip each day having to use bus, train and tram. He remembers the older boys who were prefects

taking his school cap off him and throwing it out the window of the train and tram on more than one occasion.

Chris was a talented athlete, representing the school in swimming and football.

His father was a VFL footballer, Coach, Chairman of Selectors for 25 years and Vice President of St Kilda including their one and only premiership win in 1966. You don't have to guess who Chris barracks for.

At the age of 17 he was selected to play for the St Kilda Under 19's and progressed to the Reserves where he played for three years. After that he was recruited by Oakleigh in the V.F.A. where I hear he developed quite a reputation as a highly respected and very tough player.

(Some say a dirty mongrel but I'm sure that's not right).

He played in two grand finals with Oakleigh and then finished his career at Berwick where he played in four grand finals winning two.

He then entered the family Commercial Refrigeration Business which expanded greatly over the next 44 years. During those years he squirrelled away enough money to get into property development and built several commercial buildings and many residential homes and units in prestigious inner Melbourne suburbs.

He met Ruth at Separation Creek and their first date was at the Rookery Nook Hotel in Wye River. They were married in 1974 and have three children; Luke, Monica and Eliza and seven grand kids.

His first memories of Lorne go back to the 1950's where he used to visit his Aunt and Uncle, Gloria and Rusty Norton. Ruth's family had a holiday home in Separation Creek and a farm at Cape Patton - when these were sold they bought a holiday house in Lorne and have had properties here ever since. After moving to Lorne permanently they began planning LIVEWIRE PARK. It took Chris and his son Luke five and a half years to plan, develop and build it.

LIVEWIRE PARK is now really showing signs of being a hugely successful attraction for Lorne and the Great Ocean Road. It employs lots of residents and also helps all the accommodation places in town with their occupancy.

Chris has been a keen fishermen all his life, earlier on in Port Phillip Bay with his father, then later on lots of trips to the Murray and Darling Rivers and also the Kimberley.



Now it's fishing here in his own boat or out with me; as I mentioned before Chris claims he doesn't go fishing, but goes 'catching'.

He and Ruth have travelled extensively all around the world but like most of us they have come to realise that we are living in the best place anywhere in the world.

Continued page 24



**From page 23**

He is a valued member of our committee – and sponsor – and he also financially supports the Lorne Dolphins. Chris and Luke have become very popular and well respected members of our community and the town is a better place because of them.

Chris is the one with his eyes closed and the big gap in his teeth. The gap is the only thing that hasn't changed.

Personally I've had the privilege of getting to know the whole family and regard them all as great friends.

**Treasurer's Report**

“Once again on the financial front there is very little to update since last month's report and we are continuing to minimise costs and the government stimulus are continuing to be received.

“We were open during July and through to 5th August. Once again, we have closed in compliance with the Victorian Government implementing Stage 3 restrictions. During the weeks we were open, bar takings have averaged around \$2,000 per week.

“With Jobkeeper being received, the financial result for July will be close to breakeven.

“Financial projections for 2021 and future years will be prepared when there is more certainty as to how we can

operate. Restrictions are expected to be in place for many more months.

“Once again, I confirm we remain in a strong financial position, but it is unlikely we will see the same levels of surpluses for 2020/21 as we have seen in the past few years.

“We are close to finalising the financial accounts for the year-ended 30th June 2020 and over the next couple of months will consider how to hold our AGM”.

**David Worth, Secretary & Treasurer, LAAC**

**Point Grey Update**

There is little to report since last month. We know that one objection has been lodged with VCAT in respect to the proposed issue of the Point Grey Planning Permit by the SCS. At this stage we have no details and expect GORCC, as the applicant, will get details in the next weeks when the statutory time frames elapse.

We have had one planning meeting with GORCC and have set an agenda as to how best to work together. Once the details of the Objection are known, GORCC and us will be in a better position to establish timelines and a project management plan.

Each month as things progress, we will provide updates and how we will transition to working with the new authority (GORCPA) that replaces GORCC in December this year.

# GET TESTED IF YOU'VE GOT THESE SYMPTOMS

If you have any of these symptoms, however mild, get tested and stay home.



Fever



Runny nose



Sore throat



Cough



Chills or sweats



Shortness of breath



Loss of sense of smell or taste

Getting tested means you keep yourself, your friends, family, workplace and your community safe.

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# THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD HIKE

Campbell Craig, exercise physiologist, Great Ocean Road Health

This September we will be supporting the health of the wider community with a virtual walking challenge. This year has already provided so many new challenges and obstacles, and it good to see the creative ways that people are staying connected and being active.

For September, we would like to invite you to join us on the Great Ocean Road Health Hike, a virtual walk covering 200km of incredible coastline from Pt Impossible in Torquay to The Apostles near Port Campbell. Each day we will start a new section together with an introductory video from one of our team members at GORH letting you know what sights and attractions you can expect to see that day. From the bat caves at Carisbrook, or running along the shoreline from Grassy Creek to the Swing Bridge at low tide, to Dinosaur Cove at Glenaire, we will all experience the wonders of this coastline together.

Whoa, 200km!??? Yep, that's what we can achieve by taking one step at a time, 200km over 30 days equals just under 7km each day, or about 10,000 steps. If you were to simply walk that distance each day it would take you about 90 minutes, not including a coffee stop at half way. As this is a virtual challenge, you are able to accumulate your steps throughout the day with a morning meander, perhaps a lunch time stroll, and most certainly a sunset saunter.

How do I count my steps? Counting your steps in this day and age is suspiciously easy. Most of our phones and many of our watches are keeping track of our daily activity without requiring any input from us. If you would rather avoid the technology, then you can use the simple formula of 10 minutes of moderate intensity activity = 1,000 steps.

This includes walking, cycling, swimming, rowing, dancing... All the activities that raise your heart rate, but still allow you to hold a conversation. If you enjoy more vigorous exercise that makes you "huff and puff", 10 minutes of high intensity activity = 2,000 steps. This includes circuit training, aerobics, running, brisk cycling and rowing.

Of course, the above activities are all focused on getting your heart rate up and your circulation flowing. Our goal in the Allied Health department at GORH is to keep people moving and understand that achieving this goal requires more than strengthening muscles and filling our lungs. A wise man, Billy Connolly, once said "Everyone should spend a few minutes each day simply sitting." We all know the benefits of mindfulness, or being present, and alternatively how short our fuse can get if we don't have any time to ourselves. To help in this area we are encouraging 10 minutes of daily purposeful relaxing. Each 10-minute block spent being present equates to another 1,000 steps. This includes practising gratitude, reflection, mindfulness, gentle stretching, yoga, Pilates, breathing exercises, and gentle gardening.

What happens if I don't meet the daily target? If you only achieve 6,000 or 8,000 steps one day, never fear! We have a virtual bus that can collect you and drop you off at the start of the walk the next day. We are all making forward progress and that is what the challenge is all about. Each day we start together, in isolation, separate, but united.

To register for the Great Ocean Road Health Hike, head to the website and follow the links and instructions. Join up as a team or individual. Be sure to keep up with the daily video on our progress along the track on our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2596022954058879>

## ZOOM:

### A 'new look' at Anglican Christ Church services

Bob Dylan beat the gun with his song "The Times They Are A Changin'". And are they ever!

Often, we long for the "old days" but do we really want to return to them completely? The change that we continue to live through has brought so many advantages, some of which we initially rejected, which we've now learned to enthusiastically embrace. On balance, change has been good, and it benefits us.

As many know, physical services at "All Saints" were stopped some time ago and whilst they've been missed by some, we've been catapulted into the "present".

We have discovered on-line services through Zoom and that change has been good. Instead of being locked in to the early 1900's, if not earlier, we're now getting up to speed, and it's brought a whole new freshness to Sunday services, with the adoption of new music and the use of videos to tell the well-known stories in new ways. And, best of all, you can wear your PJ's to church or even stay in bed if you want to.

Despite changing times, hold on to the thought that good things can come from the ongoing changes. It seems that God has done that for many churches, including "All Saints". If you would like the weekly Sunday link just drop an email to [cameocc@westnet.com.au](mailto:cameocc@westnet.com.au). Stay safe, stay warm and go with the flow that change brings. You never know where it might take you.

**Phil Jacobson, Vicar, All Saints, Lorne**



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# I HEARD A WHISPER

Doug Williams

*Allocasuarina verticillata*, commonly referred to as drooping sheoak, has separate male & female plants as do ginkgo and willow and, of course, marijuana. (When you goggle (sic) the subject of plant sexuality most of the info is about marijuana plants.)

Most plants have male and female parts and while conifers rely on wind for pollination, flowering plants have both sex parts and are mostly fertilised by insects, birds and animals. Flowers, as I wrote in an earlier column about bees, are the sexual organs of plants so, you know, the birds and the bees sort of thing. (Think about this next time you see somebody with their nose stuck in a flower.)

During May and June the catkins of male sheoaks had a rusty gold look to them. Although superficially sheoaks resemble such conifers as pine trees these do not in fact have needles but branchlets which are not to be confused with leaves. The leaves of all *allocasuarinas* are actually quite primitive. They are not easy to discern with the naked eye and are to be found at the node of the segmented branchlets and look like tiny scales. This quality helps with water loss making them a most hardy tree in tough, dry conditions. When the branchlets fall to the ground they make an attractive mulch beneath the tree and this attribute also helps conserve moisture. As are eucalypts and many acacias, sheoaks are allelopathic which means that a chemical in the leaf litter inhibits the germination of other plant species and so it can make a very effective garden mulch, same as eucalypt mulch. They are a valuable food source for yellow tailed black cockatoos and other parrots as well as providing tucker for wrens and other insectivorous birds. Sheoaks form a symbiotic relationship with fungi and the truffles they nourish with an ability to fix nitrogen are a food source for a number of marsupials such as potoroos, bandicoots and bettongs. Bees benefit from their pollen and they are visited by bats as well.

From late May onwards they display an attractive rust shade that recalls the honeyed shade of old timber that might be found in a church. Over the Bellarine Peninsula there were forests of sheoaks prior to the arrival of Europeans which were cut down for the high quality firewood they provided. You wouldn't try to do so now with the remnant stands. It provides a dense and durable timber, highly prized by wood turners. Whether they are endemic to Lorne is not entirely clear although it is true that small colonies of sheoaks can be found in places along the coast such as at Kennett River, so perhaps they are.



*Allocasuarina verticillata*

They have certainly been planted extensively and often in many places along the Lorne foreshore - they have been planted along the verge of the Erskine River caravan park across from the supermarket for example.

It's quite a special sound, that of a breeze moving through the hanging curtain of a sheoak; the gentle whisper from an ancestral wind that we hear comes from the soft twig-like branchlets tenderly massaging themselves. There are a few fake news-type explanations for the origin of the name sheoak so it's probably apocryphal to say that it can be attributed to early Irish immigrants who claimed the sound reminded them of Banshees.

**Note : Please be advised that the annual Angair Flower Show has been cancelled this September because of Wuhan Flu Coronavirus.**

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THANK YOU  
MERYL  
&  
DAVID

For entrusting us with the wonderful Book Shop you created in the heart of Lorne, both figuratively and physically. We thank you for your time, integrity and generosity of spirit which you have afforded us, and so many others in the community. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to the staff: Justin, Kerri, Lindon and Rose, whose breadth of knowledge and professionalism are a God send!

We look forward to many enjoyable years continuing in David's and Meryl's tradition of providing high quality, artist gifts of the imagination to the good people of Lorne and beyond.

Caroline, Grace and Wayne