

LORNE

Independent

\$2

No 267 February 2024

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PLUCKY PLOVER PARENTS ATTACK PREDATORY GULLS

Photo by Michael Prideaux

Lorne Hoodies P 3, P 23

Puppies Advice P 5

Doug Stirling P 7

Cheese Making P 10-11

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The Lorne Independent is produced on a non-profit voluntary basis and, as a newsletter, seeks to give in its pages, open access to the community. It is important to note, however, that opinions expressed by authors of articles are their own. Advertising and publicity for community events is free, and other contributions are welcomed. Supplied copy and pictures must bear the name and address of the author and/or organisation. The editorial committee of the Lorne Independent reserves the right to cut, alter or otherwise work the articles to make them suitable for publication. The committee also reserves the right to reject articles and/or photos if it deems the material to be unsuitable for this publication.

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UPCOMING MARKETS ON THE SURFCOAST

Aireys Inlet Market: 28th Feb 11th, Mar 10th,31st -
9AM-1PM

Anglesea Riverbank Market: Mar 10th, 31st 9AM-4PM

Apollo Bay Community Market: Every Sat 8.30AM-1.30PM

Apollo Bay Farmers Market: Third Sunday of every
Month 9AM-1PM

Deans Marsh Market: Feb18th 10AM- 2PM, Mar 17th
10AM- 4 PM

Lorne Market: Mar30th 9AM-4PM

Torquay Farmers Market Every Saturday: 8.30AM-1PM

Winchelsea Community Market: First Sunday of every
month 9AM -1PM

LORNE HOODIES

When a pair of Hooded Plovers were spotted nesting on a Lorne beach recently, it generated a bit of excitement. Hoodies haven't been recorded in Lorne for years, possibly decades, so this was special.

Hoodies occupy distinct territories, and our Lorne Hoodies turned out to be well known Surf Coast identities. The male bird, RA White, was flagged by BirdLife Australia as an adult at the Moggs Creek Estuary in early 2019. Along with an unbanded partner, they successfully raised a chick to flying stage, and like many juvenile hoodies, it soon left its parents. After four years and many failed nests at Moggs, its parents moved overseas - to Lorne!

Luckily these shy little birds have friends, and when the chicks appeared a few days earlier than expected, plans to help out were hatched.

For the first time on the Surf Coast a Dog and Public Exclusion Zone was set up between the Erskine River Estuary and the groyne by GORCAPA. Another first was the twenty five people from the Lorne community who volunteered to do shifts on the beach, undertake BirdLife training and speak with the public about the birds.

The majority of the Lorne community and visitors have embraced this mild inconvenience, and almost everyone is taking the opportunity to learn, enjoy, and from a distance watch the chicks feed while their parents keep watch for threats. At the time of writing the chicks had reached the half way mark - 18 more days until they can fly and better protect themselves.

From a biological perspective, the beach is the perfect home for Hooded Plovers. They blend in with their surroundings and food is delivered with each tide. But it's also tough being a Hoodie because increasingly they're having to share their homes not only with us, but also our dogs, foxes and feral cats. Eastern Hooded Plovers are a threatened species, but the good news is that their decline has been halted, particularly in Victoria where their numbers are increasing - hopefully the Lorne chicks will boost those numbers.

The Friends of the Hooded Plover Surf Coast recognise and are grateful for the immense contribution of Indigenous people to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's birds. We'd also like to thank the people of Lorne and the following agencies that are protecting the Lorne Hoodies - GORCAPA, Victoria Police, Surf Coast Shire Rangers, Forest and Wildlife Officers DEECA, the Lorne Surf Life Saving Club, ParksVictoria, Lorne traders, the BirdLife Beach-nesting Bird Team and all of the kind and hard working volunteers.

The Friends of the Hooded Plover Surf Coast actively promote BirdLife's guidelines not to photograph chicks, photos used for promotional purposes are taken by a BirdLife trained volunteer.





TINY HOUSES ON WHEELS PILOT

APPLY NOW



Applications are open for the **Tiny Houses on Wheels Pilot**, which will enable Council to assess the impacts of THOWs and monitor and evaluate the contribution they could make to housing across the shire.

What's required?

- The tiny houses are to be on a wheeled trailer base and placed on privately-owned land, subject to an agreement with the host.
- An assessment criteria to be met, which includes legal compliance, environmental impacts, amenity, access, waste management, connection to services and utilities, and safety.
- If successful, applicants will be granted a Temporary Residence permit under the Community Amenity Local Law 2021.

"We're among the first Councils in Australia to endorse a tiny houses pilot. We're proud to be proactive in this space to potentially pave the way for more people to join our community and to provide key workers with an accommodation solution. It's also a sustainable housing option."

- Mayor Cr Liz Pattison

The pilot will run until December 2026. To learn more and to apply email tinyhouse@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/THOWs.



NEW PUPPY, NEW PROBLEMS By Liz Brown (local Vet)

Someone came up with the brilliant idea that a puppy was needed, and for 2 hours, after the purchase, that seemed like a good idea. Almost as good as “let’s have a baby!” Once the cute, new recruit has made it through your front door and given its first yip, you realise you weren’t equipped for this. What are you meant to do?

My understanding is that puppies are a bit like children except that puppies pass through their developmental milestones at a much a quicker rate. Puppies are often toilet trained by 11 weeks of age, no matter what method you employed to reach that goal. But there will always be some late starters and accidents.

You’ll discover that every person you meet will freely hand out their advice whether you asked for it or not. And many of them had the exact same dog as yours, when they were growing up. The only difference being that their dog was much brighter and advanced than yours will ever be. With that in mind seek the advice of a trainer that you trust and stick with them and smile and wave at all other teachers and expert trainers.

Toilet training seems to work with the newspaper idea whereby the paper is slowly moved closer to the door and cheering whenever the required business is achieved outside. Maybe they would work it out when they were old enough, anyway. Then there is the picking the offending poop up. Don’t turn it into a race of who can grab it first. Poo breath is horrible and then they lick your face.....

Sleeping through the night is another bone of contention! Remember they have just left their mother and usually a lot of siblings. I’m guessing you’ll start with the laundry and possibly a crate with a radio for company, an old jumper and a warm teddy bear when that doesn’t work.

Dogs are pack animals. There’s always room for extras on your bed or beside your bed in their own cocoon.

Maybe you’re good at controlled crying and can leave them in their crate, but either way as long as there’s love you’ll do the right thing.

Food and feeding can be a mutually beneficial or mutually stressful time. At first keep them on the diet they came with. Often the stress of moving house will give puppies diarrhoea for a few days. If you want to change their diet do so gradually over three days. They need 3 –4 meals daily initially, but this also changes with the individual, their growth phase and whether you give them dry or wet food. Just make sure there’s plenty of access to fresh water and they’ll need something to chew on to strengthen those jaws and help the puppy teeth to fall out.

Other puppies are great to chew on, especially those that have been vaccinated. Helpfully all vets seem to have their own preferred vaccination regimes so follow their advice. The main problem is that puppies are most open to new ideas and experiences between 7 – 14 weeks of age so that is when you need to introduce them to their future. Worming medication is often given at 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age but of course there is always other things to consider. Heartworm medication should be given monthly and varies with the weight of your dog. Most heartworm and flea preparations do not include tapeworm preventatives so that should be given regularly too. Contrary to popular belief intestinal worming medication doesn’t last for 3 months. It kills the worms residing in the gut and then you wait for the population of worms to build up before you kill them all again. Therefore, worm them when you feel it is necessary.

From the initial delight, through the realisation of what you’ve done, to the acceptance that you are sharing your home with another personality, who has their own agenda, you are in for a delightful journey. Pets provide unconditional love and support. They will introduce you to activities you never considered and provide bridges to people and places that will carry on into the future. Allow them the space to grow, love them and, unlike children, they will never leave you.



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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

Men of the Men's Shed

DOUG STIRLING

By Garry Fenton

It was an absolute privilege to sit down and have a chat to Lorne's most senior citizen just a couple of days before Christmas, 2023. Doug has now been present for one hundred and one Christmas Days! His memory is brilliant, and he walks with a serious spring in his step. As the younger generation would say, 'He is awesome'.

Doug was born in Lorne in a house that is still there, number two Smith Street, next to the Chalet Apartments, and went to school in Lorne, as did his father and his brothers and sisters, who were among the first pupils at the Lorne School. Doug's three daughters also went to school there.

Doug was always interested in electricity and when his father built the Kalimna Motel, Doug hung around the electrician a lot and asked a lot of questions. 'Eventually, Dad asked the builder if he would put me on as an apprentice, which he did.'

Then in 1940 Doug went to Ormond in Melbourne and learnt his trade at Swinburne Tech. This Course was interrupted by the war, and he was an electrician in the army and that was credited to his apprenticeship. When Doug came back from the War there was a new power line being built from Colac to Cressy and the government were rewiring all the farmhouses and farm buildings which previously had the old 32-volt systems.

'After we finished that job, Baldwin Park in Melbourne was being converted into Housing Commission places and I had one hundred and fifty houses there to wire', Doug said as his great memory took us through some interesting times. It was about this time Doug received a letter from his mother to say that his father, who was a bad diabetic, was not very well and could Doug come home and run the Picture Theatre for him. Doug came back to Lorne in 1947 and became the local electrician by day and the theatre projectionist in the evenings. Doug was the Lorne electrician for thirty-seven years, retiring in 1984.

He had a very big district to cover as an electrician and found he was just too busy to play any sport. But he did do quite a bit of fishing. Trouble was the good fisherman always told him he should have been there last week!

As you can imagine, Doug has seen many changes to Lorne over his lifetime. Some have been very good, and some haven't been so good. Obviously one change irked him as he is still disappointed. 'There used to be a line of trees at the back of the oval to commemorate the soldiers from the First World War. Each one had a bronze plaque with the soldier's name and details. They removed the trees to do some alterations and they were never replaced. I have no idea what happened to the plaques', Doug said with some misgivings.

When Doug first heard of the possibility of a Men's Shed being built in Lorne, he thought it was a great idea, but he also remembers the kerfuffle that the protesters carried on with. 'The objections and all that nonsense they carried on with... I just couldn't understand why they would do that. This was one of the best things to happen in Lorne.... it's marvellous', he said.

Doug came to the Grand Opening just over ten years ago and

was thrilled such a huge crowd saw attended to support the new project. Whilst Doug claims he was much more adept as an electrician than a builder, he has never employed anyone and has done all his own building and maintenance. And we can't help but notice the great flowers and vegetable garden he lovingly continues to look after.

When Doug made the very difficult decision to no longer drive his car at the age of ninety-nine, he purchased an enclosed mobility scooter which became his pride and joy, and he fondly refers to as 'Daisy'.

This allows Doug to whiz around Lorne to visit friends do his shopping and whatever else he needs to do. When speeding off around town some people may consider his driving as a bit reckless but smart people see his control is unquestionable and his reflexes are "catlike"!

However, any close observer can notice a few little dints in the vehicle's body work.

When I queried Doug about some of those bruises 'Daisy' has accumulated, Doug quickly clarified why. 'There are many hazards on the footpath in the main street, so it's often a juggle to get through with all those roadblocks like outdoor eating, clothes racks and other things on display. I remember Daisy hitching onto a clothing rack on one occasion and dragged it along the footpath a bit. I said sorry to the startled shop assistant, and I thought nothing would fit me, so I kept on going' he said with a very cheeky smile.

When asked if perhaps he and 'Daisy' may have been one of those obstacles on the footpath in the main street, Doug would have none of that. 'I did have another little prang down the street when I ran into something and crunched the mudguard and the front bumper. I made an awful mess and didn't know what I was going to do with it. I mentioned it to Allan Walls, and he told me to bring it up to the Men's Shed. Wow, did they do a wonderful job. They put a big patch on it and spray painted it with the exact same colour and no-one can tell the difference. They did a wonderful job, and I was very pleased,' he said.

Doug made the point that the coffee was excellent and gave full marks to barista John Bliss and the others involved in the coffee making, and he really enjoys the camaraderie at coffee time at the Shed. Doug's final comment was to congratulate the Sheddors for their foresight and effort to build the Men's Shed. 'How fortunate the town is to have a Men's Shed because of all the work they do for the town. The wonderful job they did with the seats near the Hospital is a good example. The Shed is a great thing for the town, but more so it is a great thing for the men to use their skills and for the camaraderie. I guess you could call it Daddy's Daycare!' Doug said with a twinkle in his eye.





From the Deck

THE CALM THAT FOLLOWS THE STORM

By John Agar

With profound apologies to the Bard, whose Romeo correctly says: “Love is a smoke made from the fume of sighs” [Romeo and Juliet: Act 1, Scene 1], I have stolen his phrase and reworked it to read: “Lorne is cloaked in a fume of sighs” ... for, with the ear of faith when listening carefully in the hush of dawn, you may hear the soft sounds of sighing arise from our crowd-weary town. Another holiday season is slowly winding down.

The three weeks of mayhem between Christmas and the Pier-to-Pub has settled from chaotic cacophony to busy buzz. For the first time in nearly a month, I snagged a park near the Post Office to collect my mail. Bliss!

Meanwhile, the Surf Coast Times [19/12/23] reported that the town’s usual permanent population of +/- 1,200 had swollen over the holiday period to more than 20,000, though who was counting [and how] we may never know.

As with all emotive words, several interpretations can be attached to a sigh. For those from the older generation, the sigh you may hear is likely one of relief: relief that the town we love so dearly as we potter towards our dotage is beginning to re-emerge as the quiet, restful town we sought for our retirement.

Back to cheerful chats in the street while collecting the paper ... a breakfast egg on toast [with a side of bacon and mushies] at Bryce’s Lorne Central, Alex’s Salonica, Katie and Leon’s HAH, the Swing Bridge Café, the River Café, or at Qdos ... or whichever of the many haunts we have come to prefer. And, let me not forget a stop at Barry’s Fruits of the Forest, and the bakeries – oh, the bakeries!

Back to quiet walks on the beach with the dog — avoiding, of course, the newly fledged plover chicks and being mindful/hopeful that there may be more.

Back to lunches or dinners at Dom’s Ipsos, Johnno’s Totti [with a nod of thanks to Justin Hemmes], Raas Leela, Mexican Graffiti, and the incomparably-sited Peak at the Country Club — places where we can finally re-engage in conversation and hear our friend’s replies without flattening our hearing aid batteries.

For the older folk, summer is a testing time — indeed, many choose to leave and not return until the hubbub in town has settled and the family has gone back to the big smoke. For those who stayed on, saying farewell for another year to the children, the grandkids, and the slew of technology that surrounds them is bitter-sweet — “I/we loved having you, but the peace and quiet is palpable!”

Continued page 9



From page 8

The sighs heard in that still morning air from our business owners and staff — whether retail, service, or hospitality [perhaps especially hospitality] — are of a different kind. There are grateful sighs that bank balances have fattened up ... exhausted sighs from bodies and minds run ragged by near-intolerable pressures and demands ... frustrated sighs from the hurt inflicted when unreasonable customers demand more than it is possible to give or abuse when abuse is neither warranted nor fair ... thankful sighs for having staff prepared to work above and beyond to service a never-ending demand ... when-will-they-ever-stop-queueing sighs from the checkout staff at Foodworks, the ice-cream shop counters, and the take-away outlets like Moons, Bottle of Milk, and Pizza Pizza? ... and sighs of quiet satisfaction from all that their services have been so very well given!

As the town slips slowly back from 'frenetic and frantic' towards 'comfortably busy' — except, that is, for the Australia Day weekend when the crowds descend for one last fling and to give thanks for all who have gone before us to create this wonderful nation we enjoy and love — we should pause to reflect on those who keep the town's wheels turning.

Pop into your favourite haunt, shop, eatery, or watering hole — there are too many to name, and trying to do so would inevitably leave someone out — and say thank you.

Thank the shopkeepers, the restaurant staff, the service personnel, the waiters and barmen, the baristas, and the kitchen staff.

Thank the lifesavers, police and the emergency services, and the hospital and medical staff [who often go un-thanked].

Thank Hutch and his team at the Aquatic Club, and the army of volunteers — like the men of the Men's Shed, the volunteer staff of the Op Shop — all who have worked to allow a town of 1,200 to absorb such a gobsmacking influx of people.

Thank our young workforce, many of whom come to Lorne on working visas from France, Spain, Greece, Argentina, Chile and many other countries worldwide, for cheerfully working for us despite a shameful lack of local accommodation options.

Doubtless, there will be healing to do ... the town will look worn out — it always does after a summer. There will be trampled vegetation, damaged infrastructure, and bent signs to repair — but before simply repairing a sign, determine whether it is needed, for our town is badly blighted and diminished by superfluous signage. And there will be rubbish — always rubbish! Those able-bodied enough to contribute to the annual Clean Up Lorne Day, check with the Aquatic Club or at HAH and join one of their volunteer clean-up groups.

Above all, thank yourselves — the townsfolk of Lorne — for coming through yet another summer with a smile still on your face.

"Lorne is cloaked in a fume of sighs". Well done, all. It's been a helluva summer!

Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 ON NOW



Random phone interviews with 600 Surf Coast Shire ratepayers are taking place in February for the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey-which takes about seven minutes to complete- provides us with feedback to help understand the customer experience and identify improvement opportunities.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is carried out by the Victorian Government.



DEVELOP

CLOSING SOON

DEVELOP Applications Close: 5pm Thursday 29 February

Surf Coast Shire Council is committed to fostering an environment where people with clever and creative ideas can make a difference.

DEVELOP supports creatives to explore new directions, ideas and concepts to advance their practice and/or their careers. It provides individual creative practitioners up to **\$3000** and creative collectives up to **\$5000** to undertake:

- Intensive creative research and development of new ideas/ concepts
- Practice-based experimentation

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT DEVELOP:

surfcoast.vic.gov.au/ArtistCreativeGrants

Email: info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au



SAY CHEESE

By Ray Sutton

The late Jo Vondra, previous editor of this publication, was one of the early writers about cheese in Australia with his book “A Guide to Cheese in Australia”. I have borrowed this quote from his book:

Cheese is without doubt one of the world’s great foods. Not only is it a fantastic nutritional food, but as a fermented product, like wine, it also has a wonderful taste. And as with wine, a most profound gem of wisdom is nothing more than “if you want to learn about cheese, you should start by eating it.”

There are now many publications ranging from books about how to make it, eat it, serve it, cook with it, as well as categorisation of cheese types. As a hobby cheese maker, I am often asked “how do you make it?” and usually when I launch into the explanation eyes glaze over as most people are only interested in eating it and not the detail of its creation, which can be complex or simple depending on the cheese type and level of science one goes in to. In this article I have tried to balance the detail with the overarching process for those who are interested and don’t know already.

Firstly, some history. Most people will know the story of the shepherd boy who left some milk in his animal skin container and came back to it months later to find it had solidified. True or not, archaeologists have found the earliest evidence of dairy processing on pottery fragments over 7,000 years old in modern day Poland. Although there is no written evidence, the consensus amongst scholars is that the process was discovered by accident when milk was stored in containers made from animal stomachs which contain an enzyme which coagulates the milk into curd. I don’t think you need to be a scholar to conclude an accidental discovery; how else were ancient peoples going to discover such a complex biochemical and microbiological process.

Rennet containing the enzyme chymosin is still used today in cheese making although it is mainly synthetic or sourced from plants. From those early days the myriad cheese types we have today evolved mainly from variations in local environments, animal breeds, and the process used in cheese making.

Here are the ten steps of cheese making.

1. Milk is warmed up to a temperature which allows the acidifying cultures (bacteria) to activate. Depending on the type of cultures and cheese being made this can be from 24 to 42 degrees Celsius. In traditional cheesemaking raw milk was used which already contained bacteria. In most modern cheese making, pasteurised milk is used and controlled species and doses of cultures are used. For some hard cheeses like Parmesan, skim milk is used, and for other soft cheeses like Brie, cream is sometimes added for a richer cheese.

Did you know there are milk sommeliers who can tell what breed of cow, the pasture they are on, and the region they are from, just like a wine sommelier.

2. Acid. In most cheese, acidifying cultures are added to ferment lactose or milk sugar into lactic acid and there are many species of bacteria which give different flavour and



texture outcomes. Sometimes yeasts and mould spores are added at this stage also, for example, white mould spores are added to Brie and blue mould spores are added for blue cheese. They will grow later to form the rind or help in flavour development. The “eyes” in Swiss cheese are made by gas producing bacteria added at this stage.

3. Coagulation. This is when the milk changes from liquid to firm curd and this is encouraged by the addition of rennet. In some cheeses rennet is not added but the acidification process in 2. coagulates the milk just like adding lemon juice or vinegar would do. This process is often used for fresh cheeses and goats’ milk Chevre is an example.

Continued page 11

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4. Cutting is the first step in removing whey from the curds. For hard cheeses the curd is cut into small pieces, perhaps the size of a grain of wheat so there is more surface area to emit the whey. For soft cheeses it may be cubes 2cm X 2cm., a French goat's milk cheese, and some others skip this stage altogether and go straight to stage 7.

5. Cooking is the process of maintaining a warm temperature and stirring the curd to remove more of the whey. The longer this is done the drier the curd will be so this varies considerably depending on the cheese type. A Gruyere may be cooked for up to two hours but a Feta for only fifteen minutes.

6. Draining. The curds and whey are then separated. The whey still contains some milk solids and by re-cooking it Ricotta is made, ricotta meaning re-cooking in Italian.

7. Forming. The curds are then put into moulds which determine the final shape of the cheese. Whey continues to drain from the curd during this stage. Pasta Filata style cheeses like Mozzarella are stretched at this stage.

8. Pressing. Some cheeses, for example Camembert, are pressed under their own weight by turning regularly, while a harder cheese like Spanish Manchego is pressed under weights.

9. Salting is done by sitting the cheese in brine or by sprinkling salt over the cheese. This again depends on the type of cheese and for some cheese, for example Cheddar, salt is mixed with the curd before forming and pressing.

Salting not only enhances the flavour of the cheese but helps to protect it from unwanted microbiological contaminants.

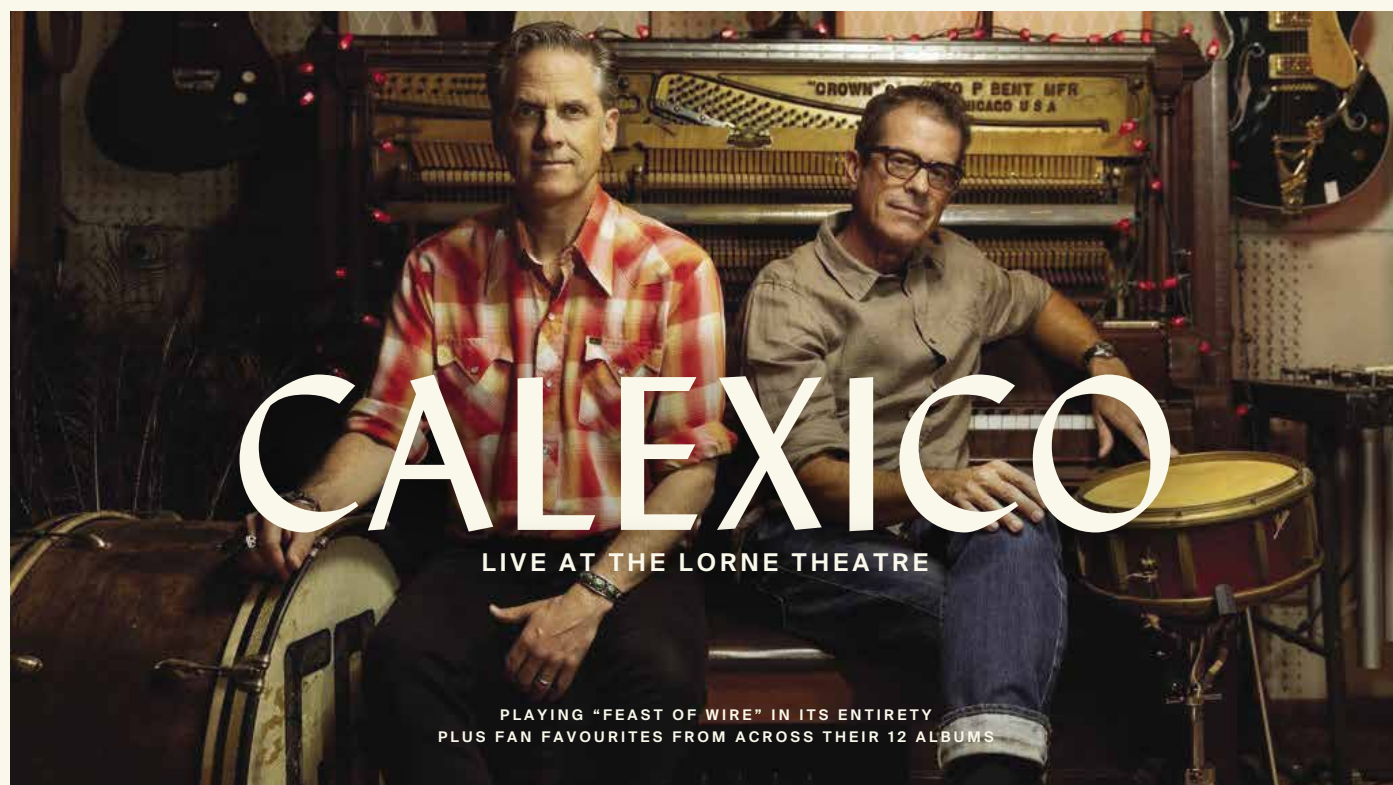
10. Ageing. Some fresh cheeses can be eaten immediately after making and others will be aged for a year or more. A soft mould ripened cheese like Camembert can be eaten from around four weeks after making.

The ageing of cheese (affinage) is a specialised skill and in some European countries the maker hands over the cheese to the affineur who nurtures it at correct temperature and humidity, regularly turning and wiping it until it is fully developed.

A wheel of Comte may be aged for up to two years with the flavour changing constantly due to the action of various microbes and enzymes. A Pecorino from Italy can be eaten at two, four, six months or longer and each one has a different flavour profile. A protective rind forms on the cheese during ageing however some cheeses are waxed, for example Edam, and some cheddars are cloth bound to protect them during ageing. A naturally formed rind can be eaten with the cheese but it does not always enhance the eating experience.

A lengthy article could be written about each one of these stages but stage 11. Eating is the most important and enjoyable one and we can all participate in that.

A quirky cheese fact: Some studies suggest that eating cheese before bedtime might influence the type of dreams a person has. There's a popular belief that certain cheeses, particularly blue varieties, can lead to more vivid and unusual dreams.



SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY
SUPPORT BY AL MATCOTT

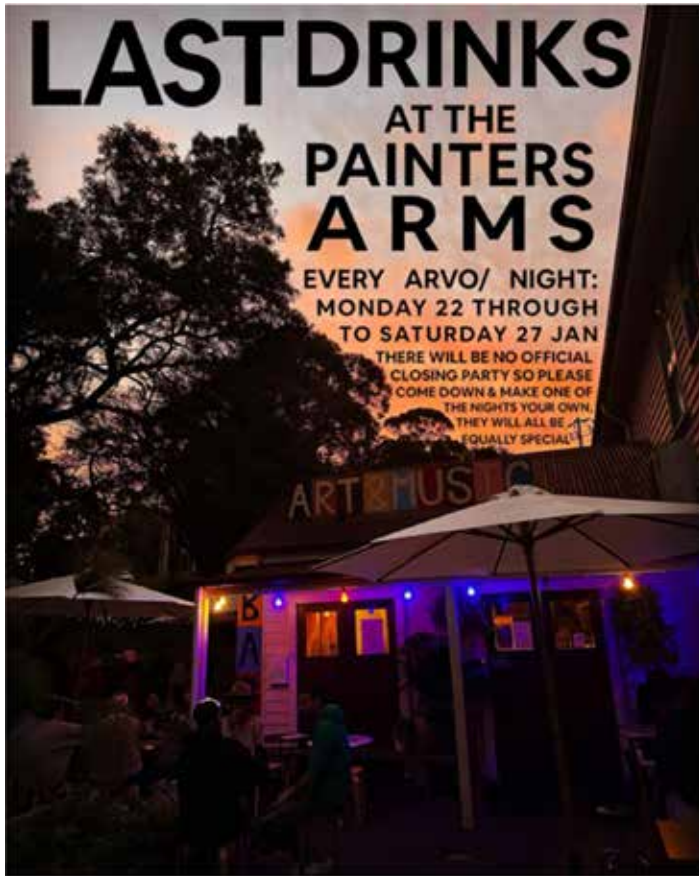
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ARTS IN LORNE

Sad News for Arts Lovers



The Christos Poetry Prize

First prize

Vantages by Kathryn Ross

1

Meandering back, above us bird- punctuated power lines
A Musical score, you call it. I say I am sure someone has already
said that, but have you thought about playing it? Later
Under a night sky and a dangle of old Nikes, tied and tongue-
played, we are quiet. We both know a constellation, like music
is mostly space

2

My self portrait jangles like a magician's silver loops
When we met I swear I heard the metallic slide
As our Venns intersected. Or was it the old corner store
Bell- tinkle of fly-wire door?

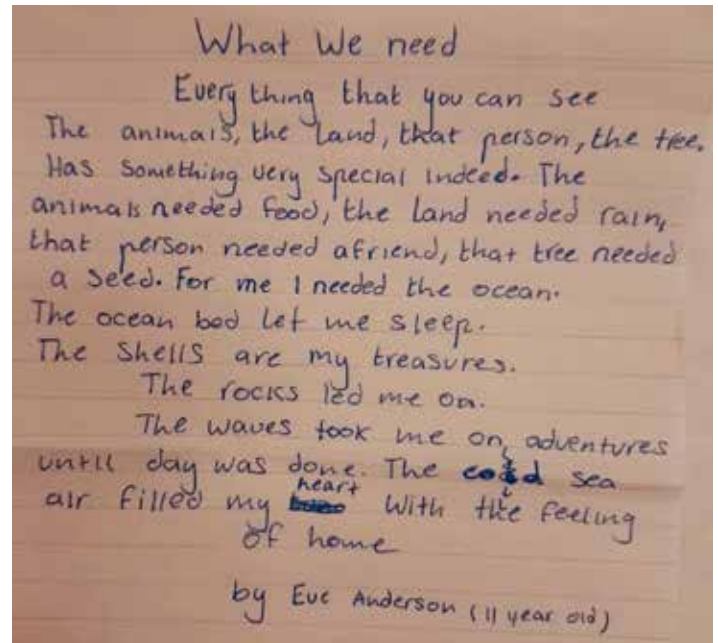
3

Light-spun water has childish energy. You could ask it
to sit still, but that would be pointless. Movement is part
Of its charm. Horizon too is mercurial. Move closer
and she edges away Like meaning
Sometimes
She wants you to know, it's not your fault
You were born linear.

4

We're sprung from a place of rain mist, where river
Remembers the wrongs and cliff deepen dusk
In unnamed longing, where pale light and seabird croon
And, cupped in a seashell, a whole grey dome of sky
Shifting worlds within worlds

The Children's Category Winner



Up & coming at Qdos ...

From the artist that gave Lorne 'The Haunting Tide' at the 2022 Sculpture Biennale Geoffrey Ricardo Presents a solo exhibition at Qdos 'Waxing Lyrical' Jan 27 - Feb 16, 2024.

"Stylistically, Ricardo draws on figurative expressionism and surrealism to create his own 'dream realism'. Through this imagery, the artist presents his poignant observations of the human condition. Ricardo's observations sometimes allow us to laugh at our own behaviour. His images confront us with the comic and the absurd. Yet, underneath this initial glance at his images we may see his deeper philosophical questioning of human nature."

Professor Sacha Grishin ANU

Community Connect Welcomes a New Artist in Residence.

Artist Annä Reynolds

Our next Artist in Residence, Anna Reynolds has taken up the residency from mid-December until after Easter 2024. Some of you may know Anna as she previously lived in Lorne and is now residing in Darwin.

Anna is open to commissions and has some great projects on the boil, please contact her make a date .

Continued page 13

From page 12

Anna was inspired by the Hooded Plover Story

“The first Hooded Plover nest sighted in the Lorne community’s living memory!



Early January the artist in residence at Community Connect art precinct LORNE -decided on a community driven task, making and performing in costumes to mark, celebrate and educate beach goers about Hooded Plovers and their fragile nesting habits. This is her story:

“The Hooded Plovers are nesting between the rock groyne and the mouth of the Erskine River on Lorne Main Beach and are highly likely to migrate up and down the beach as the chicks grow older.

I’ve been having fun in Lorne with a small group of nature enthusiasts making Hooded Plover Chick hoodies from #recycled materials. We hit the Lorne Op Shop to forage the racks for the neutral sandy seaweed palette and feathery textures found in an array of bad fake furs, picnic blankets and dressing gowns!

On the beach I met Jonty (9), Annabel (8), and Lily (5) holidaying in Lorne. They were happy to pop on the hooded hoodies and dance and scurry across the sand imagining themselves to be the chicks. Super cute moment!

Sim Fulton, an Otway Forest Nature Muse, is driving the fabulous concept to create chick hoodie costumes for the kids to wear down at the beach raising awareness while celebrating this significant and auspicious Hooded Plover event.

To help volunteer and keep these endangered beach loving birdies safe for the next 35 days please contact.

Janice Carpenter
Regional Co-ordinate Bird Life Australia
Mobile; 0418375561
Email; janicejohnoz@yahoo.com.au

Lorne Sculpture

Lorne Sculpture Inc is excited to announce the artists selected for the 2025 Biennale:

Lucy Allinson, Darcey Bella Arnold, Matthew Bird and Charity Edwards, Richard Collopy, Nicholas Currie, Naomi Eller, Carly Fischer, James Geurts,

A poster for the Lorne Pier Art Bazaar. The background is a photograph of a pier extending into the ocean at dusk. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, in a red oval, is the title 'Lorne Pier ART BAZAAR' in white and red. Below this, in white text, is 'LORNE PIER HEAD LORNE VICTORIA 3232', 'lornepierartbazaar@gmail.com', and '0419 502 917'. In the center, in large red letters, is 'COASTAL PLANTS & HERBS \$5 \$10 & \$15'. Below that, in white text, is 'ECLECTIC RANGE OF PAINTINGS, INCL SOME OF LORNE, PRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, COLLECTABLES, BOOKS, 12 CRATES OF ORIGINAL VINTAGE VINYL LPS CDS & DVDS, COULD BIRD PRINTS, BIRD FIGURINES POSTERS & MUCH MORE'. At the bottom, in large red letters, is 'FEBRUARY OPEN THURS, FRI, SAT SUN & MON 11 - 5PM CLOSED TUES & WEDS'. At the very bottom, in white text, is 'OR BY APPOINTMENT CALL IAN 0419 502 917'.

Natasha Johns-Messenger, Anne-Marie May, John Meade, Kerrie Poliness, Elvis Richardson, Tina Stefanou, Studio Forrest, Chaohui Xie, and Yusi Zang.

Titled STRATA and curated by Simon Lawrie, the Biennale will be held from 1 – 30 March 2025 across 16 precincts in Lorne. The curatorial vision derives from the iconic geology of Gadubanud Country – the stratified landscape of the Great Ocean Road serves as an analogy for the fact that one place is many places, layered both physically and experientially through time, culture and species.



A Weird Medicine 2022, oil on canvas, 91 x 111 cm

GEOFFREY RICARDO

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www.qdosarts.com

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Courtesy of Australian Galleries

ROBERT WHITSON

3 - 23 Feb 2023

SHADOWS OF STONE



Wanderer 2023, oil on linen, 106.5 x 199cm.

The Director of Qdos Fine Arts has pleasure to invite you to attend the opening on Saturday, the 3rd Feb at 3:00pm. Launched by Loris Button, Federation University.

Whitson has refined a technique reminiscent of pointillism stemming from the Impressionists of the 19th Century, where layered paint and therefore different colours are applied using dots to create abstract landscape imagery with figurative and narrative dimensions. The choice of palette and pointillist gestures extend on the typically calming pointillism landscapes of the Impressionists and invite the viewer to imagine and see what lies below the surface of dominant Australian mythic landscapes

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CLIMATE CHANGE--- YES OR NO? *By Garry Fenton*

Global Warming has now morphed into Climate Change. Funny about that!! With the Climate Change Sceptics on one hand and the Climate Change Activists on the other, who really knows? They can't both be right!

I suspect future generations will look back to this period and think both groups got it wrong. With this in mind, I thought it may be of some interest to print some extracts from my mother's 1965 Diary, pertaining to temperature and fires that year. At that time our family lived on a sheep, cattle and cropping property, at Glendaruel, near Clunes in Victoria.

Mum's diary extracts: The terms, TFB, Total Fire Ban and Declared Day are the same.

4th January: Fire near Cairn Curran Reservoir. Glendaruel Brigade attended. About twenty brigades attended and some 3000 acres burnt.

10th January: Extremely hot morning but change brought gusty conditions. Fire at Ullina. Glendaruel Unit attended. Fire right up to Jack Leishman's house.

15th January: Very bad day. Fire truck and crew on stand-by.

16th January: Fire on Rusty Leishman's property. Boys were in serious trouble when truck failed. Fuel vaporized.

17th January: 106.9 degrees. (41.6 Celsius). Terrible day. Several bad fires in our region. Daylesford, Moolort and Blackwood.

24th January: Truck standing by for Amphitheatre fire. Fire Brigade meeting in evening.

31st January: Truck to Invermay fire.

2nd February: Coming home from Ballarat I passed the Glendaruel fire-truck heading for the Miners Rest fire. 200 acres burnt.

4th February: Shocking day of high winds.

10th February: Mechanic fitted new USB radio in fire truck.

15nd February: Declared Fire Ban Day

16th February: Another Declared Day. High temps and strong wind.

17th February: Very hot. Declared Day.

18th February: Declared Day.

21st February: Another TFB. (Total Fire Ban). Shocking fire day. Big fire at Haddon. Our boys attended. Tony returned at 2.00am. Garry and Neville stayed all night. Relief crew took over at 9.30am next day.

22nd February: Relief Crew at Haddon until 5.30 pm. Some boys on the job for 24 hours. Dozens of fire units.

2nd March: Total Fire Ban.

3rd March: Total Fire Ban. Very hot and windy. Fires in Gippsland. Critical.

4th March: Total Fire Ban. Three local units sent to Gippsland.

5th March: Total Fire Ban. Heat conditions critical.

6th March: Total Fire Ban.

7th March: Total Fire Ban.

8th March: Total Fire Ban. 7th TFB for March so far.

16th March: Total Fire Ban

17th March: Total Fire Ban

18th March: Very hot and humid

The Country Fire Authority, usually because of forecasted heat and high winds, declared a T.F.B, a Total Fire Ban, either in specific regions or a blanket Victorian T.F.B. I believe there were at least 14 such bans in 1965 in that Region compared to 2 last year (2023) and 1 the previous year (2022).

I suspect Mum's Diary's before and after would have had similar entries for those three months. I do remember one extreme day, our Fire Truck attending a very bad grass fire in April, perhaps 1966. With the very wet spring and summer, and pastures staying green longer than usual, I suspect grass fires will be far and few between this summer.

I won't get too involved here with the 'abnormal' flooding of towns across Australia in recent years. But I am intrigued with regular newspaper reports from many of those towns which suggest, the 'record high water mark' has not yet been reached, or just reached the record from forty, fifty or even one hundred years ago!

Just some food for thought!





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THE LOUTTIT LOOP

The most amazing story is the arrival of a pair of Hooded Plovers (Thionornis Rubicollis or Hoodies) who made their nest on a pile of black seaweed almost above the high tide mark. The first ever sighting of these tiny almost extinct little birds in Lorne. Signs were erected everywhere, and a flimsy fence put around the area. How they survived New Year's Eve is a mega mystery with drunks stumbling all over their dunes to find a place to wee. Soon after this the penny dropped and in marched the wonderful official Hooded Plovers Association team and lots of other wildlife, Parks and GORCAPA people and the beach was fenced off and a roster set up of terrific folk to inform and protect!! By now two tiny plovers had hatched and were running everywhere – down to the sea and back, every bloody where. A glorious sight to see. There is a fair chance they will make it through the next couple of weeks when they learn to fly!! Sincere thanks to each and every dedicated and delightful volunteer involved.

Meanwhile the not so cute, terrifying, bigger, normal plovers have hatched their babies in the lane at the back of the op shop and their death-defying diving is so so scary. They are creatures of habit – this is their fourth visit to this spot. Don't eyeball them or they will dive at your head, making a scary scream.

Great to have the Fireworks back and how good were they? A Go Fund Me account raised money from many of the BIG generous players on the main street, and from lots of Mums and Dads of Lorne, and their relatives also. Bit tragic that one donor felt that his donation entitled him to advertise all over the Pier.

This is a case of "Here's Eric Pearce with the late News". Emilio Graziani and his gorgeous Tori have moved to Bright to live. Their two darling little boys will have fun there! But we will all miss you, Mizza. As Sir Eric used to say as his sign off – "God bless you, and you."

The Rick Grant Memorial Cup was played at the Country Club – on a Thursday of course. Chris Wood was the winner which would have really pleased Rick! And Gary Norton was the runner up who was a 1st time player. A barbie was held, and a number of "older" players attended.

If you were not one of the 400 local folks to be present at the big Concert on the 9th green - suffer!!!

It was fabulous. Band was great playing 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s music and changing costumes and hairdos according to the decade. Beautifully organised with an easy to reach bar, interesting and yummy food on the barbie, and hills for kids to run or roll down all night long. Dancing on the grass was popular and Rose - our new Ladies Golf Club Champion - was among the very best dancers on the night! Pity dear Julianne Trickey went home when it got a bit chilly as she missed out on \$250 when the Members' draw took place.

It was so sad to hear that the 'CEO' of our tip has passed away. "Ray Clinch from Winch" we called him affectionately. Absolutely fantastic at his job. He knew all the dogs (waiting in owners' cars) – and disappeared into his office to retrieve treats for his mates. He had been crook for a while but just before Christmas he could not eat and was in deep trouble. Ray, it was

a pleasure to know you. And the way you had the 'Transfer Station' organised was better than the best filing system in a ladida office! Ray - you will certainly be missed.

Congratulations to our Foodworks on their fabulous staff – regulars and summer extras – and for keeping the shelves stacked for us. Interestingly the first thing to be unavailable was ...? Waddyareckon? Sliced beetroot! Maybe just a heap of barbies, or maybe the floods, but they are still leaving a big gap in the shelves and in our salad sangas.

Lots of new dogs – actually puppies – on their allocated dog beach. Most share the "oodle" moniker and having just acquired a Bordoodle (go figure) I can see why. No hair loss all over the house, damned intelligent, and supposed to be smaller! I'll keep you posted on my big pawed oodle!

Of the City of Melbourne's 5,964 registered dogs, there are 930 oodles across six different breeds.

Great to hear that the Supreme Court dismissed an attempt by developers to open up the Spring Creek valley for housing. Said developers got hit with the Costs to the planning minister and the Shire and the proceeding was dismissed. After the communities battle over 17 years!! Great.

Have you ever noticed the sweet old fashioned little round structure opposite Cellablations and the Japanese eatery? It is actually a 'wishing well' and was created long ago by the Lorne Lions Club. For the very young – a wishing well is exactly what it says except that the wish needs to be subsidised by the tossing or dropping of a coin into the water. When the Lions Club sadly folded the Men's Shed took it over, but it seems they are too busy or have forgotten about it as it's pretty tragic and neglected! Does not look an inviting place to donate and make a wish! Maybe I'll pop down, invest in a wish for a bit of a tidy up and see if it works!

Speaking of cute old-fashioned things – quite a bit of feedback on the school's newly renovated Doll's House. Thanks. Constructed by the Education Dept as a residence for the headmaster. In fact, Dr John Smyth lived there when his dad was the headmaster. So cute was it that a couple once entered and sat on the verandah and ordered strawberries and cream. Young John was rushed down to the supermarket for cream, strawberries were picked, and served to the tourists in one of the "good" bowls. Money offered was refused, and the travellers had yet another good tale for their journals of a trip to Lorne. In the 80s the House was converted to a "Backpackers Hostel" to fundraise for the school.

Sad to hear that the cockies seem to have outsmarted the Shire on the bin lid issue. Before all bins have even been made secure, they have worked out how to click them open! Back to a heavy bit of wood on the inside of the lid?

And also under the heading of sad – In the Skies Art and Music are closing their Painters Arms bar. It was such a quaint and happy spot for a wee drop.

AND rumour has it that BWS are advertising for staff and may be going in where Celebrations are or were. I hate changes like these. What to do?

Lorne farewelled Pam Fulton late in 2023. Very sad. Pam was a gentle but firm lady and thank goodness she joined the Op Shop team as we all got a chance to know and love her. Very conscientious and always early for her shift with the float done, everything switched on and tickety boo by the time the rest of her team arrived. She had been unwell for quite a while and now hopefully has joined her darling Bill. Miss you Pam. ... Lillian

DEVELOP

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TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY:

Winchelsea Shire Hall 9.30am to 12.30pm
Lorne Community Connect 1.30 to 4.30pm

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY:

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EDITORIAL By Janet Goud - Editor

Welcome to 2024

As we come to the end of another busy summer season, we are looking to February to provide us with summer weather. So far, we have had just three days where it was warm and comfortable to frolic in the beautiful Lorne waves or sit on the warm sand reading. The pretty tent city has sprung up nevertheless, but I do feel for all those returning to their city jobs and to school without their quota of sun and serotonin.

Best wishes to all children beginning school this year, and especially to our Lorne P-12 students who have such great new buildings to stimulate their learning.

I asked our writers to think of the audience of visitors to Lorne in their various articles for the January Lorne Independent. Little did I realise how relevant John Agar's response would prove to be. Very early in the new year we had our first large tiger snake in our bushy garden. It was challenged by my aging but feisty Burmese cat. Sadly, she succumbed after a struggle, but died a hero as she alerted us to the snake, and saved the dog and grandchildren from harm. These snakes are in their own territory but we need to be very careful as they are aggressive, unlike most snakes, and are deadly poisonous.

John's other warning about rips was also proven true. A week ago, two brothers, Josh and Jarrad Bath were attending the beach with their children when they noticed a boogie board floating 50-100 metres offshore. Then they saw a body away from the board and a distressed family trying to find help. They were a long way from the beach patrol. Snatching a boogie board from a bystander, the two brothers rushed out to find a young girl face down in the water. These heroes managed to flip the girl onto the board and begin CPR in the water, as they tried to swim sideways out of the rip. The girl responded by expelling a lot of water and began breathing faintly. The lifeguards then arrived and took her to onshore medical help. Later she was helicoptered to the Royal Children's Hospital in a critical condition where she has recovered.

People need to swim between the flags, especially those who are unused to surf and have no knowledge of rips. !!!!!



The Lorne Independent would like to thank those two young men Josh and Jarrard Bath who were such selfless heroes.

The Long Weekend which closes the January Beach season held many events.

CFA fund raising at the Aquatic Club was a sell out.



And we sadly said goodbye to our little in the Skies Gallery and the Painters Arms Bar with the community event of the Christos Poetry Prize. The town needs these young enterprising people. Let's find them a new venue!!



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A man with a beard is sitting in the driver's seat of a car at night. He is holding a yellow and red breathalyzer device in his mouth and blowing into it. The interior of the car is dimly lit, with some light coming from the dashboard and the breathalyzer device.

Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.

Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again.
If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties,
including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed
in your car and having to blow zero for three years.

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LORNE MATTERS

Alan Shiell, Lorne resident, sent us this photo. He says, "Resident ... since 2005 ..."



I was initially attracted by the rays of the sun coming through the clouds and reflecting off the water, bathing everything in an orange glow. The paddle boarder, nicely posed with paddle in one hand and the other shading his eyes, was just a bonus ... I just thought it a nice image that captured some of the beauty and serenity of Lorne.

Over The Summer with the influx of visitors (20,000, 30,000 who is counting?) Lorne stubbornly refused to comply with weather requirements. Starting with the poor washed out Schoolies who valiantly carried on their celebrations amid pouring rain, their have only been a handful of days where the sun warmed us up. Still the events were all very well attended and people had fun.

Here are a few highlights of the Summer Season.

The Excitement of Fireworks!



Edward Cooleridge at Qdos



Watercolours by David Picus at Community Connect 'Lorne and beyond'



Live Music and Dancing!



Tree Management

From the Friends of Queens Park Newsletter:

Trees in Queens Park and indeed throughout Lorne are under increasing pressure due to all the changes occurring to their natural environment: indiscriminate clearing, controlled burns, and fire breaks, increasing building footprints on the land surface, road and track compaction, diversion of water courses and drainage, disease caused by stress, climate change and all that, that may mean. Protecting our native trees is not only important in maintaining Lorne's treed canopy, but also crucial for our wellbeing, our wildlife and is important for Australia's cultural and natural heritage. FOQP mission is to preserve the natural environment as an example to increase public awareness in preserving our trees and encourages community involvement.

Seasonal Conditions

Seasonal conditions are very dry at present with the El Nino pattern taking effect. Surprisingly, a complex weather pattern developed at the end of November 23 with strong easterly winds, wild seas and over 50 mm of rain was at odds to the forecast. However, the El Nino effect is still expected to continue. We're told by the scientists that with climate change we can expect these unusual weather events to occur from time to time.



Daryl Babington had a guided tour of the Grand Pacific Hotel." A work in progress on the lovely old lady by some very dedicated people.

Thank you, Matt and Maryanne." More details on this renovation by John Agar next month.

FREE Social Media marketing and skills workshop for volunteers and community group leaders.

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10am-12pm

Deans Marsh Community Cottage

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Please email bdixon@surfcoast.vic.gov.au
to register your interest.



OP SHOP BUZZ *By John Ford*

For the last month or so the Lorne Community Opportunity Shop has extended its opening hours through until about 6.00pm. This has allowed customers the chance to browse during the period while they might be returning from the beach or waiting to select a restaurant for dinner.

This has been made possible by volunteers offering to do additional shifts, and in some cases extended shifts, while maintaining the normal shop opening hours. The extra money generated for the community will of course be used for community projects and be a handy supplement for the Op Shop Rebuilding Project.

Yes, I am delighted to be able to announce that the major refurbishment of the Op Shop will begin in April. The project will involve major plumbing and drainage works beneath the floor, electrical wiring upgrades and other structural and layout changes to conform with current legislation.

Therefore the Op Shop will be relocating for a period of time after the Labour Day weekend in March. Customers need not worry because we have been offered a temporary home at 6 Mountjoy Parade.

Robert Crossland (Robbo) has very generously offered the use of the premises which until recently has been leased as the restaurant 'Saporitalia'. While some aspects of the agreement are still to be detailed, this is of major benefit to the Op Shop, and hence the community, by not having to pay rent during the period of construction. The Op Shop will operate its normal hours until March 11th at the normal address and then reopen shortly after, near the roundabout at the Erskine River bridge. Parking, supermarket and morning tea opportunities are close at hand.

Customers will find the same broad range of clothing, books, toys and household items at great prices – and being served by friendly volunteers. The specialist sub committees of the Op Shop Committee of Management are to be congratulated on their dedicated work in bringing the building project to this stage including arranging the temporary premises. We are all looking forward to the project commencement.

BEACH PHILOSOPHY *By Penny Hawe*

"Yes," and he drew a deep breath "we have to believe that people are good."

I'm on the beach. I've explained that the flags and signs are about a pair of endangered hooded plovers who've decided to set up house in Lorne. I've told a father, wrangling two kids, how the whole town is stepping up. And that people like me are rostered on to the beach to tell beachgoers about the birds and ask that beachgoers take a detour.

But what happens at the end of the day, the dad has asked, when you knock off? The answer is that the police come down and issue fines. But really in essence, we hope that all the work we have done during the day pays off. I tell him that we rely on trust.

The real buzz of the job comes from thrusting a set of binoculars into a stranger's hands and asking them to take a look for themselves. That's how the conversation starts. I rush up, smiling, lanyard flapping, looking slightly deranged I suspect.

"Wow! They are so tiny!"

People just melt when they see the chicks. Taking the detour along the path instead of walking along the beach is suddenly small potatoes. By then they have taken on board that the chicks wander

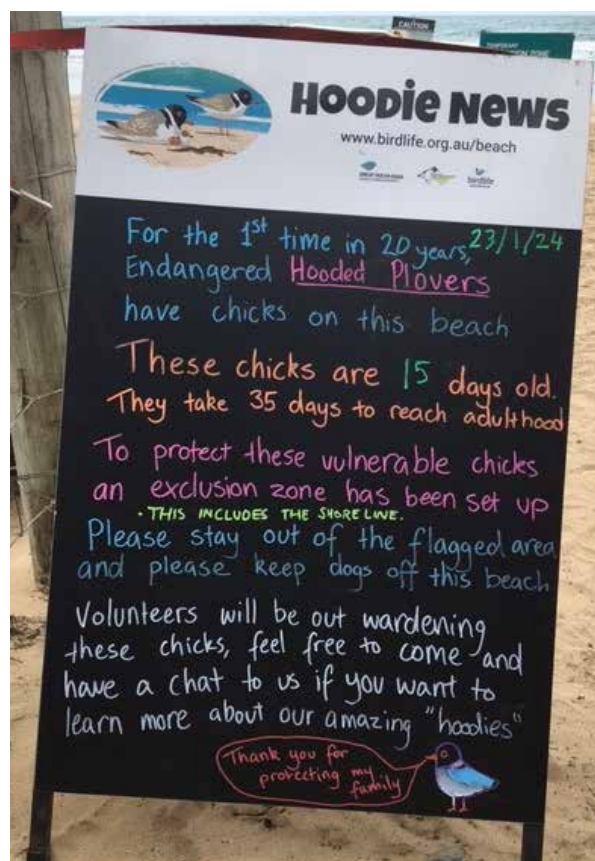
and follow the tide down feeding, and we can't put the flags all the way out into sea to warn people.

Not everyone is obliging though. One bloke said, "So you're the fun police, are you?" The volunteer he began berating was just another bloke down here on holidays from Bendigo, who had responded to the call-up on the Lorne Facebook page.

The probability of these two chicks surviving the five weeks until they are ready to leave home is slim. We know that. But there's also a thing called regret theory. It goes like this. Decisions are made differently looking forwards, anticipating some outcome, versus when we imagine something happening in the future and ask ourselves, what do we wish we would have done? The theory is used to help people navigate cancer treatment options and choices.

If these chicks don't survive, I want us to be able to say that the town tried our very best. Of all the wretched things happening in the world right now, here is one small piece we can possibly influence.

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul." (Emily Dickinson, 1891)





4B TRADEWINDS AVENUE LORNE

"OCEAN WINDS"

Welcome to "Ocean Winds", a three year old modern coastal architect designed home. Every detail is a testament to the perfect pairing of luxury and style of this stunning Lorne residence.

Meticulously crafted to capture the essence of tranquillity and energy, the home offers stunning views of towering eucalypts and the serene beauty of Louttit Bay. Step inside to discover a world of intricacies with Blackbutt timber feature ceilings and walls, complimented by sleek concrete benches and stylish terrazzo tiles throughout. Comprising 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, home office and a stunning open plan kitchen dining lounge area.

Unwind by the warmth of the Cheminees Phillippe feature fireplace, creating an inviting ambiance in the heart of your home.

The practicality of a double car garage, along with a spacious storage area, adds to the convenience and functionality of this exceptional property.

Escape the uncertainties of construction costs with the purchase of this near-new modern showpiece. Elevate your lifestyle in this bespoke haven where luxury seamlessly intertwines with thoughtful design.

"Ocean Winds" is more than a home; it's a statement of contemporary living at its finest.

\$3,500,000

Michael Coutts 0438 356 624



LORNE

ANNELISE

Welcome to your ideal holiday escape nestled in the coastal haven of Lorne. This renovated beach house on Neade Street offers a modest yet delightful retreat, perfect for those seeking a relaxed getaway by the sea. Situated in a prime location, this property provides easy access to the nearby beach and attractions, making it an ideal choice for a memorable holiday.

Inside, the holiday home features a cozy and welcoming atmosphere. The well-equipped kitchen boasts modern amenities. With three bedrooms, including a queen-sized bed in each of the two ground-floor bedrooms and a set of single bunk beds in the third. The open living area includes a lounge with a TV and free WiFi, perfect for unwinding after a day of exploration. The property also offers a laundry with a washing machine, dryer, and clothesline, ensuring a convenient stay. Step outside onto the balcony or patio to enjoy the fresh air; the property provides a BBQ for outdoor dining under the stars.

www.greatoceanroadholidays.com.au

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38 Charles street
3 bed, 2 bath, \$700 p/w, available 20/02/2024

From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

Mountain to Surf and Pier to Pub

The second weekend in January is when Lorne welcomes visitors for the annual Pier to Pub Swim and the Mountain to Surf Run. While not totally dependent on good weather, participants and spectators of both events certainly benefit from fine sunny conditions. The weather had been unpredictable in the days and weeks leading up to the events, but both days turned out to be excellent with temperatures being in the mid-twenties with light breezes.

The groups of runners began at 8.30 am on the Friday morning with the leaders setting a cracking pace up the Otway St hill before heading past Qdos toward Allenvale. The huge field was made up of a range of ages including recreational joggers, novices and some elite runners. The course is about 7.8 kilometres and those who have run the course understand the difficulty of the hills, and the narrow St George River track. The first three runners were outstanding, each bettering 24 minutes – about 3 minutes per kilometre! First across the line was Sebastian Asher from Ocean Grove in 23min 38 sec, only seconds ahead of his next two rivals. Sarah Klein was the outstanding female runner, with her 26 min 4 sec being minutes ahead of her nearest challengers! Well done to all runners.

On the Saturday morning the heats of the Pier to Pub swim began in fine conditions but with a variable southerly breeze. The heats began at 11.00 am in categories that allowed all 5000 swimmers the chance to swim safely. Each year participants include elite swimmers, novices and some who have competed over 30 times – yes it was the 44th year of the event. The event is a highly prestigious open water swim and accordingly attracts politicians and celebrities, this year notably Ted Baillieu, Josh Frydenberg and Tim and Samantha Lane.

The winning swimmers were reigning champions Hayden Cotter and Lani Pallister who amazingly both notched up their fifth wins in the event. Hayden Cotter's win was very close with his 12min 20 sec being just ahead of rivals Sam Sheppard and Jesse Coulson. Lani Pallister was the dominant female winning by almost a minute from the rest of the field. For most though it was about competing and possibly trying to swim a personal best time. It was great to see families and groups of friends trying to outdo each other with friendly rivalry. Well done to all swimmers, organisers, sponsors and volunteers who each year make the swimming and running events an outstanding success.

Lorne Cricket

Lorne hosted Irrewarra in an afternoon/night match under lights on Friday 12th January at Stribling Reserve. Irrewarra won the toss and sent Lorne in to bat in fine sunny conditions ideal for cricket. Irrewarra's bowlers proved to be a handful for the Lorne batsmen who struggled to bat fluently. The pressure bowling saw some batsmen fall to rash shots and

Lorne was bowled out for just 105 runs. Ryan Heathcote top scored with 25.

The Lorne team was always going to find it difficult to defend such a modest total. However, the bowlers applied considerable pressure to the Irrewarra batsmen who were finding scoring difficult. Lorne rotated seven bowlers to try to restrict the visitors, but some missed catching chances unfortunately helped the visitors to struggle past Lorne's total. Irrewarra finished with 129 runs, and no batsman for either side scored more than 25 runs!

Lorne has a chance to avenge this defeat in their next night match scheduled for Australia Day 26th January. This match



will begin at 5.00pm under lights at Stribling Reserve and be a top-of-the-ladder clash against Tomahawk Creek. These matches take quite an effort to stage and could not be done without the great efforts of the small cricket committee and dedicated volunteers including Darren, Chris, Clive, Marge, Charles, Alison, Dave and others. Well done and good luck for the rest of the season.

Women's Golf

Over January, the women's group take a break from competition golf and play social golf with visiting family and friends, and many also compete in the friendly LCC Summer classic, where those registered for the competition play as many nine holes rounds as they want until January 25th, when their 3 best cards go in and we see who wins the traditional "lame" jacket. It generally takes 3 cards with Stableford points in the early 20's to win this competition!

Our Club comp will re commence on Tuesday January 30th, with some warmup exercises lead by our resident Yogi - Anne Maree, followed by a 9-hole comp to start the year's syllabus, and then lunch to reconnect with the larger group.

We are a friendly group of women, at all different levels of golf skill and experience, and we love to welcome new members/golfers to our group.

If you are interested in joining our group this year, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Sue Neill on 0418 674 062, or Chris Angus on 0439 008 167.

Happy Golfing - Danni De Bon.

KEEPING COCKATOOS OUT OF KERBSIDE BINS

Council started fitting locking mechanisms to residents' landfill, FOGO and recycling bins last November to stop clever cockatoos from opening lids and pulling out rubbish.

More than 2,000 locks have now been fitted to kerbside bins across Lorne. The lock-fitting team will continue their work every Monday and Tuesday throughout February, March and April.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1 Check the schedule at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/binlock to see when the team will be working in your area.

2  Download the Surf Coast Rubbish & Recycling App (SCRRApp) at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/SCRRApp so we can let you know when we will be in your street.

3 Check your bins are lock-ready:

- **Locks will not be** fitted to bins with damaged lids or broken handles.
- **Locks will only be** fitted to bins with the correct lid colours:



**Lime-green
for FOGO**



**Yellow
for recycling**



**Bright red
for landfill**



To organise a repair or lid changeover, submit an online request at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/request or call us on **5261 0600**.

4 When the lock-fitting team is due in your street:

- Leave your empty landfill, FOGO and recycling bins on the kerbside until 3:30pm on Tuesday. (Don't worry, this is within the 48 hours timeframe in Council's Local Law, so penalties will not apply.)
- Help us identify your bins by writing your address on the lid in permanent marker.
- Tell your neighbours we will be in your street so they can put their bins out too.

SES LORNE UNIT

The force of Nature is something the SES know all about.

Force of Nature: The Dry 2 premiers at Lorne Cinema as a fundraiser for the Lorne CFA Brigade. It's a fantastic Australian Movie starring Eric Banna. A captivating storyline, as to be expected.

What is fantastic is the cameo part played by real-life VICSES members as they undertake a land-based search operation under police direction.

In June 2022, around 30 VICSES volunteers gave up their time in cold weather to assist as extras in the movie during search scenes filmed in the Dandenong Ranges.

VICSES volunteers and staff also went above and beyond to assist the production crew with vehicles, resources and equipment in this brilliant Australian movie.

Over the last year, our Lorne SES members have participated in several real-life, time-critical, laborious searches in complex environments requiring tremendous focus and physical stamina. They are the real unsung heroes.

Force of Nature – The Wet

Well, what a summer we have had so far. We have been regularly communicating severe weather warnings to the community, including severe thunderstorms, heavy rainfalls, damaging winds, and flooding.

Storms and flash flooding are common throughout Victoria. Water across roads can hide hazards and dangerous debris, such as rocks, branches, and road surfaces that have washed away.

Frightening, life-threatening disasters are only a moment away, and unfortunately, people repeatedly drive into flooded roadways. Last week, I assisted an SES Land Based Swift Water Rescue Team.

They were dispatched to assist a person trapped in rising flood water after driving a vehicle into a flooded road in suburban Melbourne. If it can happen in suburbia, it can happen in our beautiful rural environment.

Driving on flooded roads is dangerous, and it doesn't take much to make your car unstable, lose traction, or wash away.

According to a float tank experiment using real vehicles at the University of NSW Water Research Laboratory, a small car can float in just 15 cm of water.

You don't know the road if you can't see it. Never drive through floodwater. You don't know, so don't go.

Helping Us to Help You

In all weather and conditions, your SES Lorne Unit supports our town and the surrounding community twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year. SES units source their volunteers from the community we serve and focus on building strong and deep relationships with our community.

It is not generally known, but units rely on funding from a variety of sources, including:

- Subsidies from VICSES assist with the payment of day-to-day expenses.
- Fundraising within our community.
- Donations
- Interest from bank accounts
- Competitive grants from various bodies.

The Lorne Unit purchases a wide variety of tools and equipment out of our own funds. Plus, the unit has previously purchased a support vehicle (utility) with the assistance of monies from the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). This is a competitive grants program within VICSES and other Emergency Services organisations in Victoria.

The current vehicle (2013 Mazda BT50 4WD Dual Cab) has reached VICSES's specified end of life, and last year, we were unsuccessful in the grant process to replace this vehicle. VICSES has been tremendous and is looking at options to support us until we can replace the required capability (asset).

At the end of the day, Lorne SES will have to replace this asset with or without VSEP support. Obtaining the funds is just the first part of getting the right vehicle to the unit, subject to a lot of work and supply chain constraints.

A suitable replacement vehicle will cost around \$135,000, with the cost of the base vehicle being roughly 30% of the cost. The rest of the cost is related to the operational outfitting of an emergency services vehicle.

We are incredibly grateful for our community's continued support and donations. We appreciate the fact that there are very many worthy causes for your contributions.

In 2024 the unit will be undertaking a fundraising drive to supplement our unit funds. There is an opportunity to also assist with in-kind support. Stay tuned for the launch of our fundraising campaign.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 132500

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

Follow us on our Facebook page - SES Lorne Unit.



Lorne Accounting Group

Lorne: 1st Floor,
136 Mountjoy Pde, Lorne
M: PO Box 58, Lorne VIC 3232
P: 03 5289 4277

Highton: 1st Floor,
2A Bellevue Arcade,
Highton VIC 3216
P: 03 5245 8949

E: admin@hlgaccounting.com.au

Barwon Water Community Update

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

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

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

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



Lorne: Water, Your Say

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



We're here to help

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



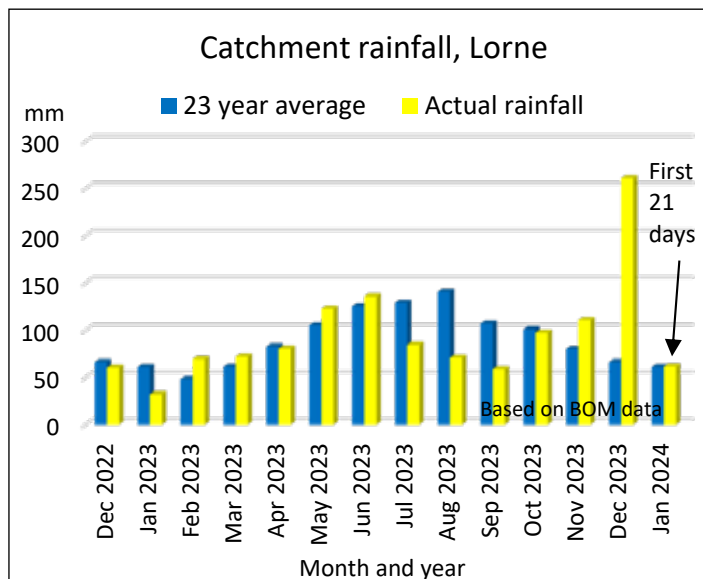
Be waterwise every day

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



LORNE WATER, KEEPING WATCH *By Mary Lush*

This month's rainfall graph doesn't look much like the previous versions published in the Lorne Independent, because December's rainfall necessitated a change in the vertical scale from 0-160 mm to 0-300 mm.



The Mt Cowley weather station recorded 90 mm on 26/12/2023. This was the 9th highest daily total at any time of year since the station was established (but some data is missing, so the event may not have been quite so unusual).

Our water supply system probably had little or no effect on the flood peak in the St George River, because we harvested less than 1% of the total volume of water leaving the reservoir for town uses. Most of it went straight down the spillway and into the river. By mid January, as flows subsided but town use remained much the same, the volume we harvested represented about a quarter of the total leaving the reservoir. Water levels in the river will have dropped slightly faster than they would have in the absence of a town. By way of comparison, in most years all of the water leaving the reservoir in mid-January is for town uses.



Floods are not bad news

The lot of the living world associated with rivers is to be in a state of continual adjustment to changing circumstances – including floods and their aftermath.

The force of water in both the Erskine and St George Rivers modified the course of their entries to the sea and deepened their channels. These reshapings have ecological consequences.

Open channels, for example, allow the movement of life forms from fresh water to salt water and vice versa, movements that are essential for the breeding of some fish.

Deeper channels, while they last, result in a lot of mud being exposed in the estuaries at low tide. A hazard for some life forms, but an opportunity for others.

It is a bit premature to say so, but it looks as if this summer's water supply season will not be one of serious contest between the demands of humans and the needs of wild life.

LIZ'S CRYPTIC CLUES

To Seas, Oceans, and Waterways of the World.....and maybe other worlds.

This month there are Bays B, Straits St, Canals C, Rivers R, and Lakes L.

- 1.Amount of anger near Havana. B
- 2.Such a beautiful mess in a Mafia place. St.
- 3.Clark Gable's hat. C
- 4.Borrow trees and plants for science. B
- 5.Much disputed legal action in the country of pyramids. C

6.Mainland indigenous and islanders join in name across the water. St.

7.Shiploads of lac between Mal and Suma. St.

8.Shrinkle Haven landmarks leave clues about Martians. R

9.Ere the dry, the flat salt pan might fill. L

10.Julius's point of no return. R

Answers page 35



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IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE *By Doug Williams*

There I was, happily doodling away in the vegetable garden, looking under the sprawling mini tomatoes, when my hand brushed against the scales of a potentially very unwanted visitor, hidden under the foliage.

I froze instinctively and judiciously removed my hand, assuming it was a Joe Blake. It wasn't – I recognised it pretty quickly, and relaxed seeing a resident blue tongue lizard, one that had been seen in neighbouring backyards as well as my own, from time to time and over the years. They can live to be fifteen years old in the wild. We love these slow-moving cruisers, but we don't want to brush up against any snakes at any time, expressly that most unfriendly of local snake species, the tiger snake. These nasty reptiles should be avoided at all times and can sometimes be found in Lorne gardens so be vigilant at all times. They can be aggressive, not shy like most snakes are. (Both Lillian and John Agar wrote about snakes in last month's Independent.)

There is plenty to enjoy about time in the garden, but like any activity it is not without some risks. Don't think about hi-vis-clothing type risk, but gloves are pretty much essential most times. I should have been wearing gloves on that occasion and now I am sure to have them on hand if I stick my mitts into places I cannot see clearly. Gardening can expose you to skippy ants and bull-ants too – both will attack you unprovoked if you are inside



their comfort zone which is quite a large zone and the skippy ant in particular is an aggressive organism which will come leaping towards you with angry intent once it knows you are close, even close-ish. Anywhere in their neighbourhood really.

Plenty of spider types are out there too; there are red-backs and trapdoors and white-tailed spiders, black spiders and mouse spiders. Be careful around all of these and get straight to a medical centre if bitten – bites are rare though and are unlikely to be fatal. On the other hand, the most poisonous spider in the world, funnel web, is a different matter. Take them seriously; they are around suburban areas as well as in the bush but again they are uncommon but beware: in the past some people did die from their bite until the development of anti-venom. (I've only ever seen one of these in Lorne.)

My favourite garden spider is the ubiquitous leaf-curling spider which twists a leaf into a cylinder to make a home in its quite large web. These days I have taken to walking around webs in order to leave them intact and allow these spiders to get on with their important role in the ecosystem. I do – I go out of my way to avoid destroying these when moving through the garden. Of course, as children, we delighted in hassling them with a young person's casual cruelty and ignorance, destroying their webs.

So, gloved up and with our radar switched on we head out to the veggie garden again where the tomatoes are battling to get a clear run at things after a start and stop, sluggish start, (erratic weather patterns disrupt their development), the Iceland poppies continue to bloom, there is rhubarb aplenty, the garlic has been harvested, my small potato patch is flowering and the passion fruit vine is twisting and searching and sending out tendrils to clutch at whatever it can grip onto. The fruit trees are bearing and there are just so much going on this time of year, it's delightful. I'm lucky that I can watch a couple of grevilleas and the apple trees from my writing desk; these latter must be netted of course to deter the cockatoos.

So much wildlife and so much satisfaction in my garden!



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NEW YEAR AN IDEAL TIME FOR LOCAL CREATIVES TO ‘DEVELOP’

Surf Coast creatives are invited to a free workshop to help lay the foundations for a successful arts grant application.

The Getting That Grant online workshop will be held 18 January, in the lead-up to Surf Coast Shire Council’s DEVELOP Artists and Creatives Grants application period in February. Council is also hosting drop-in sessions in Lorne and Winchelsea (6 February), and Anglesea and Torquay (8 February) so interested people can discuss their DEVELOP grant application and idea with the Project Officer.

Councillor Libby Stapleton encouraged Surf Coast creatives to register for the free workshop in January, to learn from Arts Development Officer Harriet Gaffney. “Grant applications can often feel daunting, not knowing how to tell the story of your project or what funding bodies are looking for,” Cr Stapleton said. “Getting That Grant will provide creatives with a confidence boost to apply not only for our upcoming DEVELOP round, but also other funding avenues at state or even national level.” DEVELOP grants support local creatives to explore new directions, ideas and concepts

to advance their practice and/or their careers. “These grants recognise that new creative output takes considerable time, research, development and effort,” Cr Stapleton said.

“We only have to look at last year’s applications to know that local artists and creatives are overflowing with great ideas, and that often funding is needed to kick-start them. It’s why we’re proud to offer the DEVELOP grants, which support our goal of the Surf Coast Shire being a place to nurture, acknowledge and promote innovation, the creative arts and industries.”

For more information, including how to register for the free workshop, visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/DEVELOP. Grant applications open 1 February. Drop-in sessions where people can discuss their application will be held at:

- Winchelsea Shire Hall: Tuesday 6 February from 9.30am to 12.30pm
- Lorne Community Connect: Tuesday 6 February from 1.30pm to 4.30pm
- Anglesea Art Space: Thursday 8 February from 10am to 1pm
- The Lightbox Torquay: Thursday 8 February from 2pm to 4pm

COUNCIL’S REVAMPED EVENT GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM STARTS FEBRUARY

Surf Coast Shire Council’s Event Grants and Sponsorship Program starts in February, and features changes adopted by Council in December.

The revamp includes the removal of a three-year waiting period for past recipients, with applicants now able to apply annually.

Other changes include:

- A pass/fail outcome, for all applications under a Disability Access and Inclusion criteria.
- The Community Event Grants stream to be released in April and October, under two separate rounds, allowing a shorter lead-in time from application to event.
- Increased funding for Christmas Carols, with an allocated amount per township.

Councillor Libby Stapleton said boosting the local economy, fostering community and cultural development, and helping the environment to thrive is what the program is all about.

“I love the variety of events every year, both big and small. The best thing about our events calendar is the diversity, from bespoke community gatherings to larger scale events set against the stunning backdrop of the Surf Coast,” Cr Stapleton said.

“We know funding assistance is welcome, and as a Council love supporting an assortment of activities that bring significant economic and social benefits.

“Last year’s program reflected and celebrated the natural beauty of the Surf Coast Shire, the strong community bonds, and healthy lifestyles.

“From car shows, trail runs, and cycling events, to markets and festivals, I look forward to seeing the diversity of applications in the upcoming round.”

The program is available to not-for-profit and commercial event organisers, holding an event in the Surf Coast Shire, under four event funding streams:

- Tourism Event Grants up to \$10,000 (open 1 - 28 February 2024).
- Boutique Creative/Special Focus Event Grants up to \$7,500 (open 1 - 28 February 2024).
- Community Event Grants up to \$3,000.
- Round 1: Open 1-30 April (for events held 1 July 2024 – 24 December 2024)
- Round 2: Open 1-31 October 2024 (for events held 1 February 2025 – 30 June 2025)
- Sponsored Events upon application.

You can find more details, including eligibility and criteria and the application process on the Surf Coast Shire Council Event Grants and sponsorship Guidelines page.

Please email eventgrants@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or call 03 5261 0600 to arrange an appointment with an Events Officer.

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2024 AUSTRALIAN SURF ROWERS LEAGUE OPEN HEADING TO LORNE, VICTORIA

Australia's premier surf boat event will be heading back to one of Australia's favourite beaches in 2024, bringing more than 1500 competitors, supporters, and event officials to Lorne Beach. The event was last held at Lorne in 2007, which co-insides as the last time the event was held outside of NSW.



The 2024 Australian Surf Rowers League (ASRL) Open will be held from 15 – 18 February 2024, with almost 300 surf boat crews from 80 clubs expected to attend. All competitors are current surf life savers from across Australia who volunteers their time to patrol their local beach.

The four days of exhilarating racing is the biggest stand-alone surf boat event in Australia with multiple divisions of surf boat racing being contested, including Open Male, Open Female, Reserve Male, Reserve Female, Under 23 Male, Under 23 Female, Under 19 Male, Under 19 Female and Masters.

The event features thrilling finals on all four days of racing including Masters finals on Thursday, the Interstate Championships on Friday, the Trans-Tasman competition on Saturday and the remaining finals to be held during the action packed Sunday. Heats for all divisions will be conducted throughout the first three days of competition. The spectacular racing will be highlighted by the highly anticipated Australia vs New Zealand Trans-Tasman Test. ASRL President Natasha Tunney said moving carnivals around is important to ensure other states get to benefit from racing closer to home. It also gets our members seeing other parts of Australia they otherwise normally wouldn't. Having marquee events in smaller regions is crucial in boosting membership which in return means more members patrolling our beaches throughout Australia.

Life Saving Victoria General Manager for Sport, Ryan O'Connor, said Victoria was committed to supporting national surf sports events.

"We are expecting a surge in excitement within Victorian lifesaving, and our Surf Coast in particular, as the Australian Surf Rowers League Open draws crowds from across the nation to our breathtaking beaches. Over four action-packed days, Lorne will pulse with energy, showcasing stunning event snapshots to captivate audiences locally and nationwide and we expect these images will attract future visitors to enjoy the charms of our stunning west coast

town and beaches." Mr. O'Connor said

Mrs Tunney is confident the four days of racing will engage not just the surf lifesaving community from Lorne and surrounding areas, but the wider Surf Coast community.

"This event will bring a large number of visitors to the region and engage with hundreds of Victorian lifesaving members, council representatives and other volunteers from the community. We encourage everyone to come down and experience this thrilling event".

Victorian Surfboat Rowers League Event Lead Chris Campbell is confident that the wider lifesaving community will be engaged to help deliver a successful ASRL Open at Lorne.

"Victoria has a proud history of delivering major surf lifesaving events, and with the support of key Victorian stakeholders, we would expect that to again be the case at Lorne in February."

There is no cost for spectators to witness the action over the four days which makes it an affordable activity for families to come down to the beach and check out the best surf boat rowers competing from across Australia and New Zealand.

To find out more about the 2024 Australian Surf Rowers League Open please visit <https://www.asrl.com.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/navyasrl>

LIZ'S CRYPTIC CLUES

Answers

1. Guantanamo Bay
2. Messina Strait
3. Panama Canal
4. Botany Bay
5. Suez Canal
6. Torres Strait
7. Straits of Malacca
8. Shrinkle Haven dry riverbed on Mars
9. Lake Eyre
10. Rubicon

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To : The Editor - Lorne Independent

Re : Independent SCS Release

Surely it is NOT the business of SCS to discuss when we will celebrate Australia Day.

Such a decision without any consultation is disrespectful of constituent ratepayers.

It is outside their mandate.

Local councils should confine themselves to local issues and leave national issues to the Federal Government.

Doug Williams



Keith Miller
Commodore



Happy New Year to all our members.

We are well into the silly season with pretty good weather. Not perfect but not terrible either. Everything is running like clockwork with Hutch and his experienced team all doing a sensational job. We are restricting numbers and only allowing entry for members, so everyone is safe and comfortable, with the Lazarus Lounge proving invaluable.

We are doing our best to keep the frozen pots of Carlton Draught coming but every so often we have to serve cold cans for a while to give the pots time to cool down. After all we have a reputation to uphold for the world's coldest and best beer.

The seafood raffles are again proving to be a huge success with locally caught crayfish and the best prawns in Australia as our prizes. This year we are raising money for the Lorne Hospital to help them purchase a new chemotherapy infusion unit, so locals won't have to drive long distances to receive treatment. A big thank you to all the generous members who buy tickets.

Our Hawaiian shirt Wednesdays are again a great success along with free sausage sizzle Fridays during January. Remember our facilities are available to members for weddings, parties, anything.

AGE Good Food Guide

Lorne had a secret visitor from The Age Newspaper recently who went around town trying out the local restaurants then wrote a review, which was published in their paper and also the Sydney Morning Herald. We were very pleasantly surprised to find out that we got a mention. It wasn't for our free snags though; it was for our world's coldest and best beer. Anson Cameron who is an Author/Journalist/Bullshit artist for The Age told me he did it, but he was just trying me out for a few free cold ones.

This is their article: For a cold beer

The Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club is so close to the water, it's almost in danger of falling in. Its walls are plastered with pictures of members' record catches, unusual sea critters, and shells found nearby, and the furniture is at times as rusty as the pylons of the pier. But you're not here for the decor. You're here for beer – of the ice-cold variety, and at 1999 prices, and potentially a yarn about a big fish. Don't miss the seafood raffle and free sausage sizzle on Fridays. 2-10 Great Ocean Road, Lorne, lorneaquaticclub.com.au

Garlic Comp

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Our annual homegrown garlic competition was as usual a great fun event with our sponsor and local pharmacist, J.P. and Ray Sutton doing the judging. Our traditional master

judge and new life member Leon Armistead wasn't available. The prize winners were: Senior Champion, Ash McDonald; Junior Champion, Finn Boland; Smallest, David Worth; Funniest Shape, Ric Addison.

New Years Eve fireworks

It was great having the fireworks back in Lorne after a few years absence. We organised a late licence so we could stay open until after the 9pm fireworks allowing members to have a drink and enjoy the best view in town to watch them.

Pier To Pub after party

This was our biggest and best one yet with the timeless Ronny Hollmer who seems to get better every year. He and his band had the crowd up dancing the night away and having a great night.

Hawaiian Shirt Wednesdays

We've been running these every Wednesday in January for about six years now. Wednesday's have traditionally been the night the campers come to the club, and I reckon they are the best nights of the summer. At the time of writing this we have had two and have been lucky with the weather. We've had full houses both nights and probably the most Hawaiian Shirts ever. We give out prizes for The Best Bloke, The Best Lady, and The Brightest Shirt.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Arvo Blues Returns

Our first one for the year will be the sensational 'BLUE SUNDAY BLUES BAND'. Saturday 17th February 4pm till 7pm. Free entry and sausage sizzle.

Fishing Report

Boat fishing has been going OK but not setting the world on fire. The Snapper are about but there's a lot of water in between them. One week we were bagging out in an hour then the next week we couldn't catch any. There's plenty of pinkies around the 30 to 35cm mark, but they are as cunning as SH Rats. I reckon we've caught all the dumb ones and now the clever ones are outsmarting us. They are the masters of taking the bait off the hook. It's a concern when the fish are cleverer than the angler.

Flathead are about in good numbers with some big Yanks and Tigers amongst them. We have also been catching quite a few 50cm plus Sand Flathead.

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King George Whiting are starting to bite well and there are quite a few good-sized gummy and school sharks being caught. We've been catching some good-sized Teraki (Jackass Morwong) and Flying Gurnards (Latchet). The big schools of Yakka and Blue Mackerel have arrived, and with the water now nudging 19 degrees, the Kingies won't be far away.

Pier Fishing

The pier is still producing good numbers of Salmon, Trevally, Snapper, Flathead, Mullet, King George Whiting and Calamari. There's also been the odd school of Kingfish spotted.

Point Grey Redevelopment Report

It's been some time since we have issued an update on the Point Grey redevelopment but that doesn't mean anything hasn't happened. The previous CCDG has been dispensed and a smaller community group (Community Reference Group) consisting of 8 locals formed with different representatives of GORCAPA and authorities to look after the interests of the community.

The LAAC redevelopment sub-committee will still be having regular meetings with GORCAPA when they report back from the CRG.

GORCAPA has gone through a further process of appointing new project managers and consultants to carry out a re-masterplan of Point Grey and we will hopefully be advised as to who they are at our meeting this week. Until then we have to wait for further information but we can advise that the commencement of construction on site is currently programmed to commence in June 2025 and be completed March/April 2026.

This programming means that we will now miss a full Christmas trading which doesn't suit us for obvious reasons and we are working with GORCAPA to have this revised.

Until the next update.

Regards, Ric Addison

Rare catch off the pier



Our current Club Champion and Gun Fisherman Andrew Clarke caught this unusual looking flathead recently. It's a Southern Rock Flathead. I've never seen one caught here before but have seen them while diving in Port Phillip Bay. They are normally only found in shallow areas of sea grass.

Happy Birthday Commodore

Wishing this refined wine connoisseur a Happy Birthday for next week.

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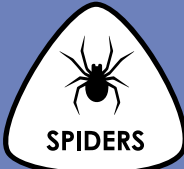
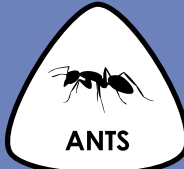
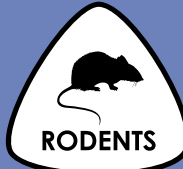


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FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

For the Lorne Ward - Cr. Gary Allen gallen@surfcoast.vic.gov.au 0438 637 274



Local Council Electoral Review

Local government elections are to be held in October 2024 and we are still waiting for the results of the local council electoral review. The fact that it is eight months from the election and the minister has not released the recommendations is, I believe,

unacceptable. Any electoral reform is usually known at least twelve months before the election date.

I declared early last year that I was not standing, in the hope of finding a person(s) willing to represent the townships in the Ward. Even if the minister makes the announcement tomorrow the chance of encouraging candidates is greatly diminished.

Mixed Business Outcomes

From what I have been told this summer has been good for our business community. It is pleasing to see empty shops trading again, with the opening of the Pacific Hotel not far away. May I also thank many in the business community and community organisations for raising the funds to stage the fireworks on New Year's Eve, thus returning to its original source of funding.

However, I was very saddened to learn that "In the Skies" is to close. Simon and Anna have created a unique business that is perfect for the site, is supportive of artistic endeavour which has quickly connected with the Lorne community. Their willingness to take the risk to provide an exhibition space for both established professional artists and most importantly, for emerging artists in a small setting that has character, was brave.

As a venue it was different, which is why Lorne will be the poorer without "In the Skies". As a community we should be doing more to support the Arts, not less. Thank you, Simon and Anna, for what you have provided over the last few years.

Lorne Community Connect

It has been an active summer for the Arts at the Lorne Community Connect with the staging of three exhibitions, namely: an Australian premiere of *Unconnected Yet*, an exhibition of *Watercolours* by David Pincus and the return of Karren Stoneham, an artist based in Aireys Inlet.

The committee also welcomes Anna Renyolds, who begins a four-month Artist in Residence program. Anna is an Australian artist who has spent the last 30 years living and working between the Northern Territory and Victoria. Relationships to the community have always played a part in her creative practice working across exhibition, education, commission, collaboration and consultation. More details of Anna's work and community opportunities will be advertised soon.

Hooded Plovers

The Friends of the Hooded Plover are calling for community volunteers to help protect the hooded plover chicks on the beach habitat near the mouth of the Erskine River. Volunteers are currently stationed near the area during the 35 days until the chicks can fly. **THEY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS.** During the 35 days the chicks are active on the beach finding their own food, being warned into hiding by calls from their parents. People in the area need to be made aware that they share the habitat and that the chicks are vulnerable from dogs off the leash and from recreational activities.

To help please visit the Friends of Lorne website www.friendsoflorne.org.au

Deans Marsh Sheep Dog Trials

I was able to attend this year's Sheep Dog Trials at Deans Marsh on the final day, Sunday 21st. For the first time the organisers combined the final day of the trials with a market. I think it was a huge success. The market did not distract the dogs and the market created a family friendly carnival atmosphere.

Wiser Driver

The very popular Wiser Driver Course is returning to Lorne in February 2024.

This is a four-week course. Dates are every Monday in February commencing Monday 5 February and concluding Monday 26 February.

The course will be held at Lorne Community House from 10am-12pm. A free morning tea is included. The course is free.

Approximately 400 people across our Shire have completed this course over the last three years. It is extremely popular, and places fill very quickly.

It is important to note that this course does not involve practical driving tests, no driving is required and in no way is this an attempt to take your driver's licence from you.

It is a refresher course – lots of things have changed over the last few years. There's lots of information and handy hints to keep you driving for as long as possible. And lots of laughs.

To register your interest please contact Rose Salvo on 52610600 or rsalvo@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

NB: If fire ratings are extreme or catastrophic on those days, the course will be rescheduled.

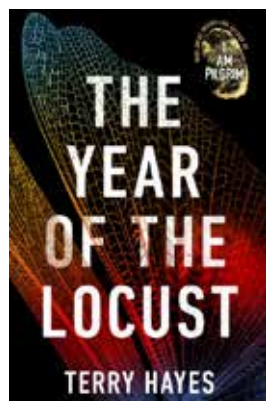


lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: *Year of the Locust* by Terry Hayes



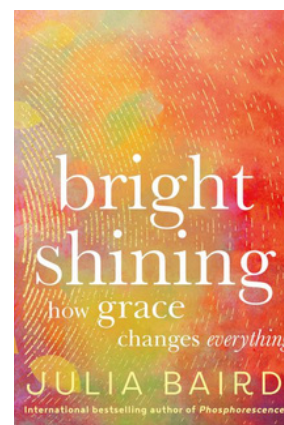
If, like Kane, you're a Denied Access Area spy for the CIA, then boundaries have no meaning. Your function is to go in, do whatever is required, and get out again – by whatever means necessary. You know when to run, when to hide – and when to shoot.

But some places don't play by the rules. Some places are too dangerous, even for a man of Kane's experience. The badlands where the borders of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan meet are such a place – a place where violence is the only way to survive.

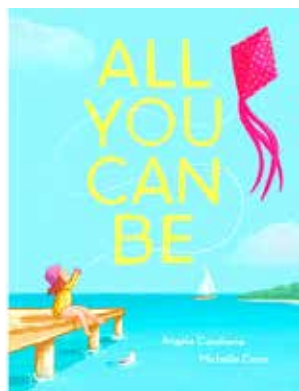
NON-FICTION: *Bright Shining* by Julia Baird

From the bestselling author of *Phosphorescence* comes a beautiful and timely exploration of that most mysterious but necessary of human qualities: grace.

Grace is both mysterious and hard to define. It can be found when we create ways to find meaning and dignity in connection with each other, building on our shared humanity, being kinder, bigger, better with each other. If, in its crudest interpretation, karma is getting what you deserve, then grace is the opposite: forgiving the unforgivable, favouring the undeserving, loving the unlovable.



CHILDREN'S FICTION: *All You Can Be* by Angela Casabene and Michelle Conn



*When the sun sits up high
In the blue summer sky
And you long to dive into the sea,
But you're fixed to the pier
And you're held there by fear ...
Be brave. Be all you can be.*

This is a love letter to children everywhere encouraging them to embrace their true selves and to live their big, messy, beautiful lives to the full.

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