

LORNE

Independent

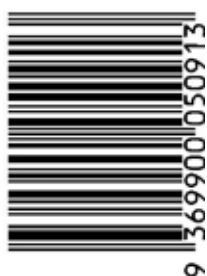
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No 281 April 2025

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE??

Spotlight GORCAPA:
What does Lorne Think? P3-P9
The Panther Revisted. P16



Lorne Independent Inc.

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LOCAL MARKETS

Torquay Farmers Market:
 Every Saturday 8.30AM to 1PM

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

Cowrie Market Torquay:
 20 APR 9:00AM to 2PM

Aireys Inlet Market:
 20 APR, 4 MAY, 8 JUN, 13 JUL 9AM to 1PM

Anglesea Riverbank Market:
 20 APR 9AM to 4PM

EDITORIAL

Lorne/Thorn in the side

By Janet Goud (for Jo Vondra)

At times like these I tell myself this is why Jo called his office the War room.

The Lorne Independent will support the Lorne Community! The time has indeed come to talk of other things! The thing almost every person in Lorne talks about now is the ever growing, ever consulting, (at arms length by survey) ever dividing, never committing,

GORCAPA

It's become too loud to ignore by our paper which works hard to represent the views of the Lorne Community!

This body, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority was set up in 2022 with the expectations listed below to be clearly met by November 2025.

That these expectations have clearly not been met is iterated by the comments of the Lorne Independent writers and other prominent members of the community.

Many of those who joined Community Consultation bodies with clear dedication to presenting community views have

been nobbled by the demand for pledges of confidentiality by GORCAPA. They no longer can communicate with their community! If they refuse to sign, then they will not be party to the consultancy and the community will not be represented. It could be interpreted as lack of cooperation from the community and therefore hamper any progress or allow development without consultation of the community. This is not a reasonable situation. See for yourself the statement of expectations by the then Minister for the Environment Lily D' Ambrosio, for this Authority.

Dear Ms Mears

GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARKS AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

I am pleased to provide you with this Statement of Expectations (SOE) for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority). To help achieve the management reforms outlined in the Great Ocean Road Action Plan, this SOE outlines my expectation that the Authority focuses on six priority areas in the performance of its functions:

1. Cultural competency and self-determination
2. Transformation and transition of the Authority to its end state
3. Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks protection
4. Community engagement
5. Visitor experience
6. Financial sustainability."

Continued page 4



From page 3

In particular we are NOT experiencing the detailed requirements below:

“4. Community engagement

It is a requirement of the Act, and Great Ocean Road Action Plan, for the Authority to engage with local communities. I expect the Authority to establish and maintain formal structures for regular and ongoing dialogue with local resident and visitor communities, and to enable their input into decision making. It is important that these structures provide for the involvement of all members of local communities and includes a community consultative model as a key foundation for the way the Authority operates. By 15 April 2022, the Authority is to articulate and publish on its website a Statement of Commitment to the community, and a draft community engagement framework/strategy.

To provide transparency on all discussions with communities, the Act requires the Authority to publish on its website a report on the outcome of each engagement with the local community. I ask that the Authority publish a forward program of regular engagement with local communities, and any planned engagement activities associated with particular projects on your website.”

In response to the many and frequent complaints about this body I sent the following message to them.

Hi GORCAPA

Congratulations on all your new territory! All the Otways to administer as well as much, much more.

Lorne community is very puzzled about their lack of information about the Point Grey development and now the sudden tenant removal of the old Fishing Co-Op.

Sadly, our Community Reps have had to sign confidentiality clauses so cannot enlighten their community about what is happening. Surely this is against the very principles of inclusive governance and even basic free speech.

This popular Community Newspaper is planning to become a forum for locals to have their say about this. Too many have contacted the team to be ignored.

Would you like to say anything to us (we are inclusive and try to be fair) for our April Issue?

We note with interest the local member's comments in Parliament about the development at the Apostles happening in secret and excluding the local Port Campbell community.

We do not intend to be muzzled while this beloved meeting point of all our past European industry (timber, fishing, tourism) and the evidence of the 12,000 years plus past of Gadabanud people, is being discussed and/ or developed without our knowledge.

Yours faithfully

Janet Goud - Editor Lorne Independent

The reply:

Progress on Point Grey Redevelopment in Lorne

Friday 21 March 2025

The Point Grey Redevelopment in Lorne is making significant progress as it advances to the next stage of project delivery which includes essential early works on this transformative community project. The current usage agreement for the Lorne Fishing Co-Operative will conclude on April 30, 2025, however the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority recognises the special care and time needed to move historical artefacts and archives and has extended this out to May 31, 2025.

The same vacancy date has been communicated to the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club and the Lorne Art Bazaar. Early works will include determining options for the appropriate use of the old Fishing Co-Operative building. This work is part of the strategic planning process and the draft Urban Design Framework (UDF), which will set the direction for the site's development.

The draft UDF will be distributed for community consultation in the coming months.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority has agreed to provide the Lorne Historical Society with additional time beyond the current agreement date to safely remove and relocate all Lorne Historical Society items from the Fishing Co-operative building.

The old Fishing Co-Operative building dates back to 1949 and was assessed as part of the Point Grey Redevelopment Opportunities and Constraints study during the master planning and design process for the site.

The building has suffered significant damage due to its age and its location near the shoreline, primarily to the roof and masonry walls, with cracking, water damage, damp and rust found throughout, meaning its future use needs to be carefully considered. GORCAPA has not made decisions about the future of the old Fishing Co-Operative building, and any decisions about it will form part of the current strategic planning process.

For more information visit:

<https://haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment>

Redeveloping Point Grey will create a unique experience for local residents and visitors, which will benefit the local economy and the Lorne and Surf Coast Shire community.

The Lorne Fishing Cooperative has played a vital role in our town's history, and we're committed to working alongside the local community to ensure this heritage is not only preserved but enhanced for future generations.

Throughout this journey of renewal, we remain committed to ongoing collaboration with the community reference group, ensuring local voices continue to shape the vision for the Point Grey precinct.”

Continued page 5

From page 4

Local Comments on the lack of Consultation

Point Grey - the Never-ending Story

By John Agar

Rumour, gossip, hearsay, suggestion, and the grapevine — none make easy bedfellows for a community development that is now approaching its 3rd decade with neither a final plan agreed, nor a sod turned.

In that time, four design proposals have come and gone since Robert Ingpen's first design in 2007 — in the opinion of many, the only one sympathetic to site and heritage. One design — was it iteration #3? — even offered, awarded, and paid a \$70,000 prize to the winning architects who, leaving richer, were never seen again. Architect, consultant, legal and engineering fees have now mounted into the millions, yet the site remains untouched.

When GORCAPA stepped up to the plate, it seemed, for a nanosecond, that things might be different, but that was 2020. Five years later, with our local representatives on the co-design group bound by confidentiality agreements that form part of their charter of participation, we seem no closer ... though how can the community tell when its representatives are shackled by non-disclosure? Rumour, gossip, and hearsay do not build trust or encourage confidence.

Few would argue that the old building has [sadly] passed its use-by date. Asbestos infests its roof, the walls are crumbly, and rust has eaten into its iron and steel structure. Once thought [or hoped] to be salvageable, this is no longer so. If demolition is inevitable, then what might replace it?

Acknowledging there may still be those who take a different view, a common opinion favours a re-invented 21st-century echo of the old building. Built around the timeline created by the Lorne Historical Society [<https://tinyurl.com/5dha9dya>], the Gondwana pre-history of the Otways, the songlines of the Gadubanud, the rising of the sea and the flooding of the land-bridge, the brutality of the colonial incursion years, the heartbreak of the shipwreck coast, the pioneering Mountjoy pastoral lease and the subsequent development of Lorne's fishing, timber, and brought-by-boat tourism ... all could backdrop and engage with a low-key, mixed alfresco and sheltered light refreshment patio for the passing visitor. Separately nestled on its present site, a rebuilt Lorne Angling and Aquatic Club would continue to provide its sun-drenched ambience to its members and guests. Neither of the two buildings need be [or should be] grand or grandiose — indeed, the intimate nature of the site discourages and repudiates over-planning.

This vision — and there may be others — deserves open debate. Yet, bound by secrecy, suppression, and silence, the community has been locked out of all input and discussion. Meanwhile, its hide-bound representatives, red-faced in embarrassment, must reply 'no comment' to all entreaties for information.

This extraordinary administrative bungle has let rumour run rife. Among the many questions circulating are:

- GORCAPA is insisting on incorporating the LAAC and all general public amenities into a single building against a clear Lorne community preference for two — true or false? We don't know.
- Nothing can proceed until a seawall has been built around the pristine wildness of Point Grey — true or false? We don't know.
- The smelly old toilet block atop hallowed midden ground cannot be removed — true or false? We don't know.
- The boat wash must be moved — true or false? We don't know.
- Everything depends on a reassessment of traffic flows, car parking, and [ye gods] bus parking [as if the site is thought big enough to permit buses] — true or false? We don't know.
- A waters-edge restaurant [like the once-loved Pier Restaurant] is/is not permissible — true or false? We don't know.
- Will a historical venue/display/museum/exhibit in which to tell the Story of Lorne be allowed — true or false? We don't know.

I feel deeply for our local representatives. They are in an invidious position. Yet, after hearing of the similar and shameful secrecy surrounding the multi-million dollar Twelve Apostles 'development' that kept the townsfolk of Port Campbell in the dark ... see Richard Riordan [MLA: Polwarth] on the floor of parliament <https://tinyurl.com/5xtnwbn5> ... nothing will surprise me about this nefarious process.

Many no longer believe this despotic authority can or will deliver an outcome that benefits the community. Loss of faith seems universal. It appears that secrecy and the bureaucratic process matter more to GORCAPA than a satisfactory resolution for the town. Answering the known unknowns above might be a good place to start.

Secrecy around plans for the Lorne Co-op

By Wendy Jarratt.

I was born in Lorne, grew up and went to school here. Many of my classmates and friends were sons and daughters of fishermen. Fishing was a thriving industry at that time. Of course, tourist income to the town was important, as it always has been, but there were other sources.

My father helped establish the Aquatic Club here and so much time was spent in that precinct, fishing with Dad, braving the lower levels of the pier and looking at the latest catch - displayed at the Co-op. I cannot imagine this area, the pier and Point grey, without those visual reminders of our long, long history of tourism, timber milling, and fishing. Those buildings are still there and mean so much to locals and visitors to Lorne.

Continued page 7



GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH NEWS

LORNE
medical centre

Love Your Heart Road Show

Age Well—Live Well—Feel Well

In May our Allied Health Team will be presenting health tips on how to keep your heart healthy! This will include nutrition, exercise, stress, sleep and medical management to maintain this vital organ.

Cost: \$5

Session Duration: 2 hours including food provided

Where:

May 1st Apollo Bay RSL 10am
May 6th Wye River CFA Station 10am
May 7th Aireys Inlet Community Hall 12pm
May 8th Forrest Community Hall 10am
May 13th Deans Marsh Community Hall 10am
May 14th Lorne Fig Tree 1pm
May 15th Beech Forest Community Hall 10am

Register your interest by contacting our friendly team:
email: communityreception@gorh.vic.gov.au or phone us on (03) 5289 4360.

In the event of an emergency please call 000

24/7 On-call After Hours Service

Urgent Care Phone: (03) 5289 4300

Lorne Medical Centre Phone: (03) 5289 4300

Community Services During Public Holidays

On public holidays our Community Team provide essential services only including: community nursing, personal care, respite services and delivered meals.

April Public holidays include Friday 18th April (Good Friday), Monday 21st April (Easter Monday) and Friday 25th April (ANZAC Day).

Flu Vaccines

Getting an annual flu vaccination boost each year helps prevent you from getting ill with influenza and limits the spread of the virus to others in the community, particularly those most vulnerable to infection. By getting the vaccine in April and May, you give your immune system the best chance to develop protection well ahead of peak flu season, which is usually in July/August. GORH will receive 2025 flu vaccination stock in early-mid April. We encourage members of our community to contact our Medical Centres or their GP to book your appointment in April/May and get ahead before winter hits. The flu vaccine is free if you're part of a high-risk group, including children aged 6 months to 5 years, pregnant women, adults aged over 65, and those with underlying medical conditions. People who are not eligible for the government funded vaccines are able to get a private vaccine at the clinics at a cost of \$20, payable at the time of visit. To make an appointment with our Medical Centre please contact our great staff: Lorne Medical Centre (03) 5289 4333

Great Ocean Road Health Needs you

Together We Make A Difference
Please donate to our
2024-25 Annual Appeal Campaign.

Donations will be spent towards infrastructure improvements, purchase essential new equipment and enhance our health services to provide greater care for our community.

 **SCAN TO
DONATE
ONLINE**

 **GREAT OCEAN ROAD
HEALTH**

From page 5

The problem is that we don't know the future of the Co-op. Some people are in the know but they have been bound to secrecy (confidentiality agreements signed) So how is the Lorne community to know?. The little information that has been given out by GORCAPA lacks logic and doesn't provide any real transparency. Until we see plans produced, which doesn't require closing the building, the Co-op building should remain open and not a place for vandalism and neglect.

Point Grey Redevelopment: A Call for Clarity and Community Engagement

By Kevin Diviny, Immediate Past President of the LHS

(Note: These are my personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect those of the LHS.)

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) has yet to clearly explain why the Lorne Historical Society (LHS) must vacate the Fishing Co-operative building by the end of May. Furthermore, they have not provided an updated project timeline or detailed plans for the new building. This lack of transparency does little to restore community confidence.

While I am not opposed to the demolition of the old Co-op building, I believe that architectural elements of historical significance could be thoughtfully incorporated into the new design. I have consistently advocated for the inclusion of a 100m² exhibition space within the redeveloped Co-op building—a vision that has strong community support. This space would preserve and share four key chapters of Lorne's rich history:

1. Indigenous occupation of Point Grey
2. The arrival of tourists by ship from the 1870s
3. The timber industry of the Otways
4. Lorne's fishing industry, a vital part of our town's economic and social history

It is unacceptable to dismiss this proposal based on the Marine and Coastal Act (MACA) legislation. A strong case can be made that such an exhibition is coastal dependent, as it directly relates to historical events that took place at the Co-op site. If the tram tracks are to be preserved, they should lead to something more meaningful than just public toilets. Lorne's community and visitors deserve more than just a café and restroom facilities in such a significant redevelopment.

A well-integrated exhibition space could be accessible through the café entrance and remain open during business hours, eliminating the need for dedicated staffing. Similar models exist along the Victorian coast, including the Queenscliff Maritime Museum and other fishing museums, which are all located near the shoreline.

Lorne's social history deserves recognition in this project. I urge GORCAPA to engage with the community

in meaningful discussions to ensure this redevelopment honors our town's past while embracing its future.

GORCAPA is Not Fit to Manage the Point Grey Project *By John Barker, Fisherman*



John Barker was a professional Fisherman in Lorne for 13 years. He is the Official Spokesperson for Friends of Port Grey.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) was created in 2020 by the Victorian Government to replace a predecessor government body which had taken several years to seriously botch the redevelopment of Lorne's Point Grey area.

Point Grey is clearly the most important historic site in Lorne. The Lorne

pier first provided a maritime landing point for sailing vessels to safely berth, enabling the local Otway timber industry to flourish. The pier also enabled the development of a unique fishing industry based on boats which could be hoisted to and from the pier by crane.

GORCAPA is currently responsible for redevelopment of the Point Grey area as part of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks project. This is funded and delivered as part of the Geelong City Deal between State and Commonwealth Governments. Recent incomprehensible actions by GORCAPA clearly indicate that it is not fit to manage the Point Grey Project.

It is unacceptable that, without any reasons being given, or any prior community consultation, GORCAPA has moved to evict all occupants of the Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative building and lock out the community, despite not being able to say what is planned for the future of the site.

It makes no sense for the Cooperative building to be left empty and vulnerable to vandalism and decay. The best option to protect this historic building and the historic artifacts currently stored within it is to leave the current occupants in place until the community are in full agreement with a realistic plan for the future of the Point Grey.

GORCAPA is clearly an inexperienced organisation which is currently making a big mistake, and I call on GORCAPA to immediately reverse this decision. GORCAPA should instead make it a priority for holding an open public consultation process with the Lorne community so that GORCAPA can listen the community which it is supposed to be serving.

Continued page 9

**FRIENDS OF PT GREY CALL ON GORCAPA
TO CLEARLY TELL THE LORNE COMMUNITY WHAT IS PLANNED FOR PT GREY.
LORNE HAS WAITED FOR FAR TOO MANY YEARS FOR THIS. THE COMMUNITY HAS CLEARLY TOLD
GORCAPA WHAT IS NEEDED IN AN ENDLESS STREAM OF SURVEYS AND IN THE HARD WORK OF
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUPS.**

**UNTIL THE LONG AWAITED MASTER PLAN IS ANNOUNCED, THE THREE TENANTS SHOULD REMAIN IN
THE CO OP BUILDING . GORCAPA NEED TO REVERSE THEIR RECENT DECISION TO CLEAR THE CO OP.**

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S IMPORTANT HISTORY OF FISHING EXHIBITION
THE POPULAR ART & PLANT BAZAAR & THE LAAC STORAGE USE ARE OF BENEFIT AND SUPPORTED BY THE
COMMUNITY AND VISITORS.
TO PREMATURELY REMOVE THE TENANTS FOR NO VIABLE REASON WILL LEAVE THE CO OP BUILDING
FENCED OFF AND VULNERABLE TO VANDALISM OR WORSE.**

**THE EXTRAORDINARY DELAY AND UNNECESAARY SECRECY SURROUNDING THE PLANS FOR PT GREY HAS
RESULTED IN THE LORNE COMMUNITY LOSING FAITH IN GORCAPA'S ABILITY TO ACTUALLY
DELIVER A GREAT RESULT FOR PT GREY. THERE'S AN INCREASING LACK OF TRUST.**

**UNCLEAR STATEMENTS FULL OF WEASEL WORDS ABOUT YET ANOTHER IMPENDING NEW REPORT
ARE UNACCEPTABLE.**

**IT FEELS LIKE WE ARE LIVING IN AN EPISODE OF THE SATIRICAL SERIES 'UTOPIA'.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.**

**PLEASE DON'T LET FATIGUE SET IN
PT GREY IS A CRITICAL PART OF LORNE'S PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY
PLEASE VOICE YOUR CONCERN BY WRITING TO GORCAPA**

INFO@GREATOCEANRODAUTHORITY.VIC.GOV.AU ATT JODIE SIZER (CEO) LIBBY MEARS (BOARD CHAIR)

From page 7

GORCAPA was created as whim of the current State Government. If GORCAPA is not willing to backtrack from an obvious mistake, then the community should be telling the State government that the GORCAPA experiment has failed.

I believe that, at this point, the Lorne community has a clear and united view of GORCAPA. Unfortunately for GORCAPA, there is not even one person within the Lorne community who thinks that GORCAPA is looking after the best interests of the Lorne community.

Point Grey Development: A Personal Perspective *By Gary Allen*

There is one constant, that the views of the Lorne Community concerning the redevelopment of the Point Grey Precinct have, over twenty years, been ignored. Forces outside Lorne hold sway and to pretend otherwise is dishonest. The community reached consensus about the Project in 2023.

I have attended different briefings concerning Point Grey over the past five years and without breaking confidentiality at each iteration, we start at square one, relegating community consultation to the realm of fantasy. The state government know what we want. If State legislation has made that more complex, then The State should allocate additional funds to redevelop what we want.

WhoKnows? *By Doug Williams*

Lorne members of the Point Grey Community Reference Group (people interested enough to support Lorne interests) may know of what is in store for the Co-Op Building but because they are sworn to secrecy are unable to let us know what GOCRAPA (sic) may plan to do.

I have seen no advice from GOCRAPA (sic) about works proposed for the site so perhaps there is nothing intended at all. The Lorne Historical Society may know what is going on since they are leaseholders in the building

Proposed Redevelopment of Point Grey *By John Ford*

I have been a regular contributor to the Lorne Independent since its inception and been the Sporting Editor and proofreader for twenty years now. During this time there have been many controversial issues that have impacted upon, and upset, the local community.

Over the years ratepayers have had to endure Special Charge Schemes to pay for upgrades to the Mountjoy Parade streetscape and the town's drainage scheme. Lengthy arguments have taken place with authorities over the reinstatement of the Community Warning Siren and the endeavours to heat the swimming pool in the Lorne Memorial Swimming Centre. Each of these issues have reached a resolution – not always to everybody's satisfaction – after many rounds of community consultation.

However, the Redevelopment of Point Grey has seen a low previously not seen in our community. Since 2007 the community has had to firstly 'see off' the 'Beacon' proposal and other designs which have not been compatible with this site of important historical significance. Along the way there have been discussions at numerous council, GORCAPA and community meetings. Alarminglly GORCAPA have not replied to most requests for updates on progress and have not even replied to hand-delivered letters. Delays are now being attributed to surveys on sea level rises, traffic management and cultural heritage.

The latest communication from GORCAPA (24thMarch) is that the Historical Society and the Art Bazaar must have vacated the building by 31stMay so that preparations can be made for the building's replacement. This defies logic when the design of a replacement building has not yet been finalised. The CEO and Chair of GORCAPA have not long ago taken out full page colour advertisements asking for more respect. As we all know, respect is EARNED, and you should not have to plead for it. It is very difficult to respect this organisation with its Lorne track record. Furthermore, the idea that representatives of community groups can be 'muzzled' by a confidentiality clause which does not allow them to report back to their members flies in the face of true consultation and transparency.

The vital aspect of the site is that it is the conjunction of the timber and fishing industries on which the town was built. Visitors also came to Lorne by ship before the building of the Great Ocean Road. It should not be too difficult to design and construct a building that honours and displays this rich history, including that of First Nations People. A building with a smaller footprint than the existing structure could house a small museum, a coffee/lunch shop and updated toilet facilities. This built form would respect the history of the town in a similar way to that of the pier, the cinema and the Op Shop. We should not forget that millions of dollars of Federal funding have been allocated for this project and hopefully these are not being spent on reports, talkfests and consultants.

GW

What disappoints me about Australia is, we lack exceptionalism and the best generally leave.

As we 'fast' become, a developing country.

The Point Grey precinct of dreams, of promises and waste of public money, is no exception.

What do you Think?

Send your thoughts to the Lorne Independent
editorlorneindependent@gmail.com

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REALESTATE



PHOTOGRAPHY
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Tanner Coolhass, winner 2024

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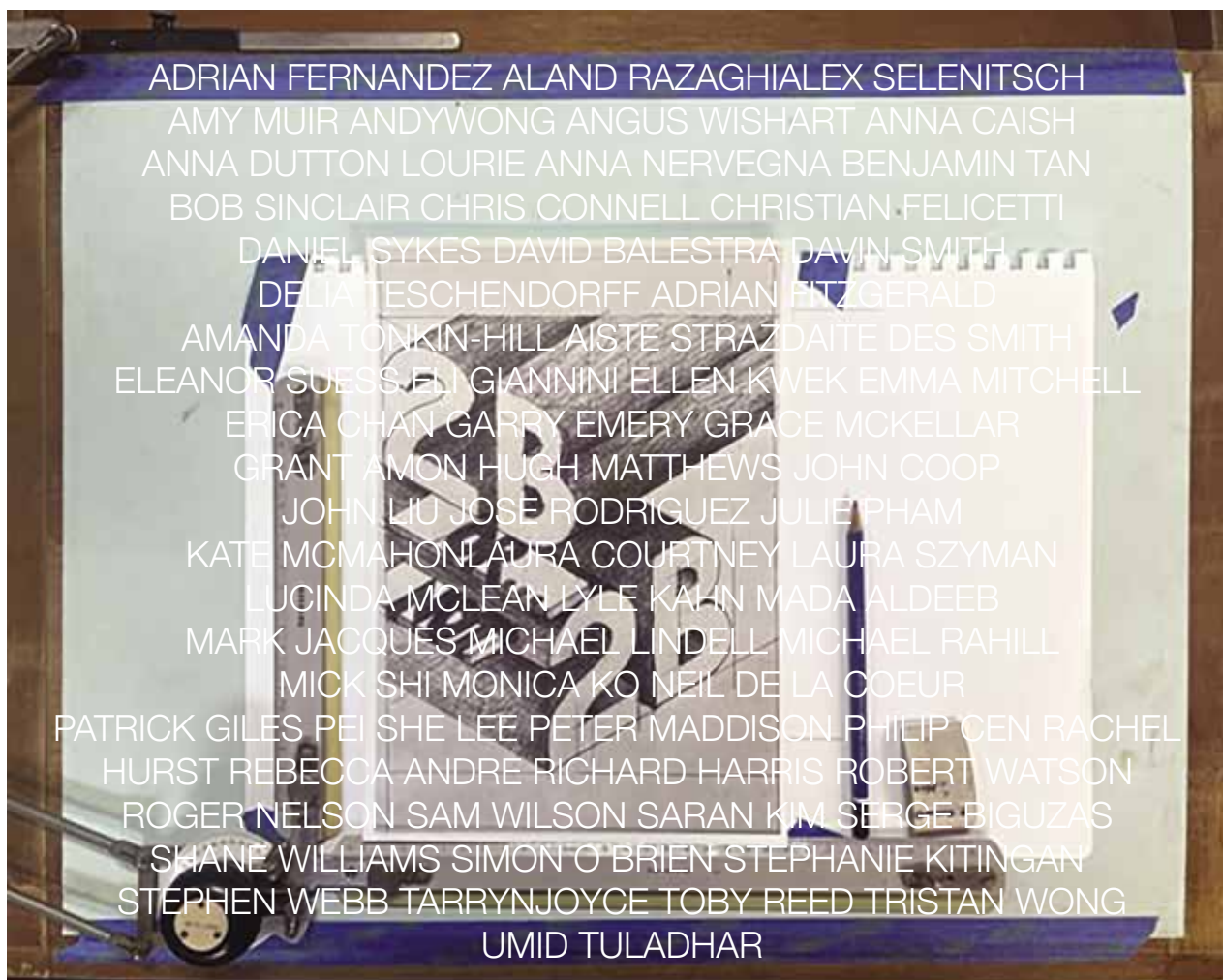


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on the periphery of architectural thought



2B or not 2B

5 - 27 April 2025

Guest curated by Bob Sinclair LFRAIA & Roger Nelson FRAIA

Launched by Jill Garner AM Victorian Government Architect

Opening Saturday 5th April at 3:00pm

An exhibition of creative works based on the ethos of hard drawing by Architects

All of the Contributor Architects have generously donated their works
 to assist with the funding of the annual Sinclair Nelson Drawing Scholarship.

www.2bornot2b.com



www.qdosarts.com

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00pm TFSSM

Allenvale Road Lorne

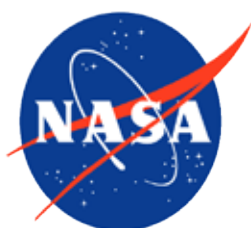


LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

*Inspiring Excellence
by the Sea!*

It has been an action packed beginning to the school year, with activities going on both inside and outside of the school, creating an engaging and exciting start to 2025. We look forward to bringing everyone along for the ride as we throw ourselves into another wonderful year at Lorne P-12 College.

We are Growing Plants for Space!



Exciting news—our school has been accepted to take part in an international experiment which will be testing plants that could one day feed astronauts on the International Space Station!

The Growing Beyond Earth program is a partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, La Trobe University, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (US), and NASA. The growing trials help scientists discover which plants can thrive in extreme conditions, shaping the future of space agriculture and sustainability.

Soon, we'll be getting specialist growing equipment, just like what's used on the ISS, giving our students the chance to experiment with real-world space farming techniques. This is an amazing, hands-on STEM opportunity, where our students will work alongside top scientists in botany, environmental science, and space research. We can't wait to see what they grow!

Stay tuned for updates as we take learning out of this world!



Surf's Up

Year 9 Advance – Outdoor Ed: Surf Skills & Leadership in Action! Our Year 9 Advance Outdoor Ed students have been making waves—literally! Over the past few weeks, they've been developing their surf skills and building confidence in the ocean, all while sharpening their leadership and communication abilities.

Now, they're gearing up for the next big challenge: leading a surf day for our Primary students! It's an incredible opportunity to step up as mentors, share their knowledge, and inspire the next generation of surfers.

Living the dream at Lorne P-12 College—where the beach is our classroom!



Calling all future Year 7 Students...

We are holding our information evening for Students commencing Year 7 in 2026.

If you are interested in enrolment but are unable to make the evening, please contact the school for a tour on 5289 1585.

ARTS IN LORNE

The Lorne Sculpture Biennale was a busy time for Lorne. Lots of beautiful weather. Many people interacted with the sculptures!



What's happening at Lorne Community Connect

By Lesley Goldsworthy



We look forward to welcoming you to the opening night of the Easter Photographic Exhibition on Thursday 17 April, 6 - 7.30 pm.

The theme for this year is Routine and Ritual which both play an important role in our lives.

Come and see how the photographers interpret the theme with their artistic display of photographs.

The exhibition is curated by Dean De Landre, who is an artist and lecturer at Deakin University.

Our judge is Jason Smith, Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia (formerly Director and CEO of Geelong) Prizes for the winners will be awarded on the opening night.

Artist in Residence: Bhanu Mistry will be our AIR from 2 – 25 May. During her stay she will be having an exhibition of her rich and colourful works in needlecraft, embroidery and tapestry.

You will be able to observe Bhanu working in the space to get inspiration for your own work.

Further details www.lornecommunityconnect.com.au

TERM 1 AT LORNE KINDERGARTEN

By The Educators, Lorne Kindergarten

It has been full of active and engaging activities so far, beginning as families held a working bee to tend to our glorious 'Wild Space' behind Lorne Kindergarten, where we go for Bush Kinder which began in Week 4. Bush Kinder provides a perfect setting for nature play and independent exploration, with a focus on sustainability, waste and ecology.

We enjoyed a Welcome BBQ where families were invited to meet and socialise at Kinder, and we took the opportunity to celebrate this years culturally diverse group by marking Holi, the Festival of Colours, and Ramadan.

Our connection to the Lorne community has been strengthened through participation in the Monday Night Market at the Lorne Bowls Club, where our stall showcased handmade art and craft and baked treats made by Lorne children and families. We also celebrated the Lorne Sculpture Biennale, both by visiting several of the artworks on a Sculpture Walk, and by creating our own sculpture in the kinder yard.

As we wrap up our first term, we look forward to a salty, sandy rock pool ramble at the beach, further deepening the children's connection with nature and local ecosystems. We continue to encourage appreciation of the beauty, biodiversity and connection to Gadubanud country, which is an idyllic setting for play and learning in early years education.





From the Deck

THE PANTHER REVISITED

By John Agar

A recent and very unexpected event prompted me to do what I have always self-promised not to do ... reprise a past article.

While the reason will soon become apparent, and considering there will be readers who did not read the original, I have chosen to begin with that article [see: 'The Otway Panther': Lorne Independent: 06/2022].

The Otway Panther [2022] was written with a healthy dollop of scepticism ... as you will see in the complete reprint [in italics] below ... but a true Damascus moment and a new twist to the panther's tale have demanded an irresistible postscript.

The original went like this:

*I tort I taw a pootitat,
One long, and low, and slinky.
I looked for evidence of scat,
Paw prints and puddles stinky.*

*I searched for twigs snapped in the night,
For frog ponds lately lapped,
For parrots winging up in fright,
For signs of roos entrapped.*

*In vain, I searched, in hope forlorn,
No pootitat did I spy
Within the environs of Lorne,
Despite that I did try.*

*A recent Main Street sighting
Had local tongues a-wag;
First seen outside the bakery,
It cruised the Mountjoy drag*

*But when the CC digitals
Were finally shown to all,
The 'massive beast' in the originals
Had shrunk to kitty 'small'.*

*So I drove to 'Panther Central';
To the 'Marsh' ... that's where it's at,
Where sightings incidental
Abound on 'social' chat*

*I went to check the 'island.'
A place where panthers dwell:
Where cut-outs make me smile, and
Make me laugh as well.*

*But cut-outs, while artistic,
Are not the real deal.
A panther realistic
Is all that will appeal.*

*I studied grainy iPhone snaps
Of disappearing tails,
Of fuzzy shapes - at best 'perhaps,'
All lacking fine details.*

*I combed the World War records
But nowhere could I find,
Proof that the US army corps
Had left their pets behind.*

*A raft of tales - most flimsy -
Surround this mythical beast.
There must be more than whimsy,
Some concrete proof at least.*

*So pootitat, pootitat, if you dare
Wait long enough for a photo.
Try not to be so darned unfair
And spoil our search 'in toto.'*

*And though it's still in hot debate
Whether Otway panthers prowl,
Protect your kids and shut your gate
When next you hear a growl!*

One enduring mystery has long-dominated Otway lore: the Otway Panther! Does it exist? Are the sightings real? A host of grainy half-shots abound, but why are the photos always so distant, so fuzzed-out, of a tail, of half an animal, or just a head—and all so sadly inconclusive?

The most favoured Otway panther mythology goes something like this:

At the end of World War II, the American service troops stationed in Australia were unable to take their unit, regiment, squadron, or warship 'mascots'—typically cougars, leopards, and jaguars [all members of the 'panther' group]—back to the US.

In sympathy for their animals, they were said to have released them to "fend for themselves" in the dense, game-rich, cool temperate rainforests of Southern Victoria—and where better than the Otways. This, supposedly, despite that most Americans stationed in Australia were deployed in Queensland, New South Wales, and Western Australia.

Continued page 17

From page 16

There are a couple of problems with this theory. Firstly, as panthers primarily inhabit hot, humid and dense tropical rainforests, the Otways in a Victorian winter might prove a tad uninviting. Moreover, reproduction may have posed an even knottier problem. As most animal species require a critical breeding mass, it seems unlikely that enough mummy and daddy panthers [even if released into the same area] would have been able to make enough baby panthers to avoid species extinction.

Could a released panther mate with a feral cat to produce a hybrid ‘panther-al’ or ‘fer-anther’? All experts in cross-breeding say a definitive ‘no’ ... but then, can we really be sure?

Most believe that panther sightings have been of feral cats—and there are some very big ‘ferals’ out there, in many shapes, sizes, and guises. On balance—and not wishing to rain on the panther parade—I think the Otways are home to many of the former and none of the latter.

*Dear pootitat, stuff of myth and lore
If somewhere you are out there
Stay safe and hidden evermore,
Deep within your Otway lair.*

The photo [above] is of the ‘Otway Panther’, domicile on its island just outside Deans Marsh. After remaining wondrously motionless for nearly a decade, it inexplicably disappeared in the early months of Covid 19 and was replaced by three dingoes.

Then, some eighteen months later, it mysteriously returned, presumably having eaten the dingoes, to reign supreme once more. If you pass, look from afar but treat it with respect ... it is a true Otway icon.



2025 PostScript

On 16.02.25, when sitting down to dinner at George Street and unencumbered by excess wine, three of the four diners [the fourth unsighted] saw it.

It was undoubtedly feline, powerfully built, and very, very big—indeed, it was more than big—it was massive! Similar in shoulder height to a large golden retriever but longer in the body, it was clearly very muscular. Its long tail stretched behind it in an elongated ‘U’ shape and was upturned at the tip. Above all, it was as black as Egypt’s night!

It stood there, stock still in the driveway, just watching us.

I made a frantic scramble for my iPhone a few feet away on the kitchen bench. Finally, camera in hand, I turned back to the window, confident I would get ‘that iconic and definitive pic’, but the driveway was empty. It had gone.

Perhaps seeing my sudden movement, it took fright and slipped away—and here I hear the doubters out there chuckling, ‘... Oh yeah, of course it did!’

Or perhaps it already knew the game.

Perhaps ... perhaps ...

Disbelieve me if you must, but I turned from sceptic to believer in the blink of an eye. To finish this story, I have penned a re-written final stanza:

*Dear pootitat, stuff of myth and lore
How did I disbelieve in you?
I shall vouchsafe forever more
You’re there, you’re real, and the tales are true.*

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I N T E R I O R S

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The upper level of this home boasts an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area that opens onto an expansive deck, perfect for relaxing while overlooking the private, fenced Mediterranean vegetable garden and the majestic Erskine River. This level also features three bedrooms, updated bathroom, and a separate laundry. The lower level offers a fully self-contained one-bedroom unit with a separate bedroom/bathroom, open-plan living and kitchen area—ideal for guests or potential rental income.

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Shop 8A, 148-174 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne
Long term flexible lease options, available 1.5.25

LORNE

MYOORA

Welcome to Myoora. Combining understated architectural elegance with Lorne's breathtaking natural beauty. Designed by Award winning Inarc Architects and Tim Allen Design, this three-bedroom, two-bathroom beachfront residence features clean lines and modern interiors that flow effortlessly into the surrounding landscape, with ocean views from most rooms. A spacious, secluded rear deck, complete with a Webber barbecue, is perfect for a quiet relax, holiday family meals or entertaining.

With solid Tasmanian Ash flooring, frameless glass balustrades, and expansive glass doors, the home brings the outside in, maintaining both privacy and tranquility. Practical features include a double remote garage with parking for one vehicle, the other has table tennis for holiday fun for all ages, and off-street parking for two other vehicles. The home also features a spacious second living space. In somewhat of a gateway to the rear bedrooms the space can be easily sectioned off to the main living and features smart TV, lounge and rear balcony access.

The siting and design of Myoora makes the most of location, ocean views and landscaped native vegetation, offering all the amenity required for a no drive, relaxing, private beach side holiday where you can fall asleep to the sound of the ocean. Experience coastal luxury like never before—book your dream holiday today to see what makes Myoora one of Lorne's most admired beachfront homes.

www.greatoceanroadholidays.com.au

From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

CLEMENTINE CALLING

The not so slim but very able Lorne identity Chunky turns out to be Dan Lewis the drainage expert. With great effort he has restored a dam at a home on the Deans Marsh Road with the help of Wilko and Taj. He has used GCL as a clay liner but reckons that laying the membrane is a “bugger”!! It’s all been hard yacka with a lot of people helping. He has done amazing stonework with rocks from the Stony Rises to make it look more attractive. Hopefully the dam will never need to be used for its purpose of fire protection and will soon be teeming with plants and aquatic life.

At the end of February Lorne was back in party mode. First up was the well-attended Op Shop Party to commemorate the opening of the successfully renovated shop. Loris York and Wendy Hemingway were honoured guests. Everyone who should be there was there, and all enjoyed the delicious nibbity produced by Suzanne Diviny. The thank yous were endless. So many put in so much extra. Paula Hayden explained all the pitfalls that went into such an enterprise. I am amazed by the many, many Lorne women who for so many years worked hard, tirelessly selling goods, treating customers politely and sorting and pricing donations to provide the over \$600,000 needed for that renovation. Imagine the pleasure for future Op Shop workers –working in such a well-lit shop and enjoying selling items that are beautifully displayed.

Next night was the celebration for the opening of the Strata 2025 Lorne Sculpture Biennale on the lawns at Mantra. The garden was a very pleasant venue and Informative speeches were made. Everyone bought their own drinks. The interesting catalogue produced by Studio Forrest featuring female local artists was handed out to the party goers. Clementine thoroughly enjoyed the last Biennale, but this one is different.

The crowds were down for the lovely hot long weekend and most of us enjoyed being in the sea. Then Leon and Katie Walker, exhausted after catering for the mob, took off with their sons to ski in Japan leaving those joyful efficient girls to mind HAH and live in their home.

Monday night markets down at the Bowls Club have been a fun place to buy locally grown veggies and meet people. Clementine saw David and Helen Worth with bags of garlic, Mary Rose Moon busy selling from her stall full of exotics, and Luke Morgan kindly assisting with the sale of locally grown produce such as daikon radishes, passion fruit, figs and leafy greens. Out in the garden was Tom Latham having a drink and talking to Graham Wilkie about hanging his paintings in his new home and Alyce Stribling enjoying a Margherita whilst Fletcher and Sullivan amused themselves. On another occasion the remnants of the Garden Club Committee were buying goodies and enjoying a chat over a vino. Sadly, the local market had its last night for the season on St Patrick’s Day, Monday,

March 17. There was a great turn out and wonderful meals such as egg plant lasagna were relished by all!

Hard working and gentle Barbara Barber is a marvel – not only is she the kindest and most thoughtful grandmother, but she also organises the volunteers for the Sculpture Biennale, gently manipulating them all into position. She is also President of the Garden Club and then lo and behold she went and won the Nine Hole Golf comp! Barbara, where does all the energy come from?

On Wednesday mornings the energetic Mary Vidavich races off from the exercise class to Community House to join the music and conviviality of the Kindred Choir from 11-12.15. This is led by the ukulele playing Tiffany Eckhart with her beautiful voice. It is very inclusive, and Tiffany doesn’t mind too much if you are tone deaf!! She reckons that everyone can sing but I wish that I could! I think they need a few more male voices! Give it a go fellow Lornies.

The very humane and kind Gary White is an unsung hero in town. He takes care of the Anglican Church Garden along with Harry Muller. It is hard to see what grows in the garden other than a mass of agapanthus – anyway its better than all the ivy in the next garden!! He also helps other people with their gardens and can be seen on a Monday pushing one old man seated in an electric wheelchair down to town for lunch. His pet hate is the mess left by people who fish on the pier. He regularly picks up hooks, lines and sinkers which he says are left to end up in our beautiful Louttit Bay. Good on you Garry.

Talking about ivy it is becoming a menace in town. Some of the landowners in Mountjoy Parade should be removing it out of respect for their neighbours and the beauty of the town. It has killed some of the big Blue Gums. Ivy can also be seen on the Allenvale Road before Qdos as it slowly invades our lovely bush. It is spreading along George and down John Street. It is invasive!! It is a weed. Clementine has seen forests in France ruined by ivy. Come on Lorne residents! Let’s get rid of the ivy at once!!

Two great contributors to our society Barry and Marion (Maz) Church can be seen strolling along the beach and drinking coffee at HAH. Some of us remember with fondness the days when they both so efficiently and tirelessly ran the volunteers for the Sculpture Show, effortlessly and kindly bundling them into the tents to do their shift as is done by others now.

Like Stephen Fry there is not one moment of the day when I do not feel myself to be intensely guilty of numberless trespasses. Drinking too much, indulging in the wrong food, not concentrating sufficiently to remember people’s names, not looking at my telephone, not answering numerous emails, forgetting invitations and sometimes ignoring people I don’t like. All pathetic little particles of plankton in the deep ocean of sin

Ed note:

Come on Clementine! Guilt and regret are pointless. Life is meant to be lived with joy.

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Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



Club News

The magnificent weather just keeps on coming. We just had our best summer for many years and March has been sensational so far although a drop of rain would be nice.

Our Happy Hours are back every Wednesday and Friday evenings with our traditional Friday night free sausage sizzle and seafood raffle.

Protect Victorian Fisheries

Now that Victoria has the highest unemployment, highest property taxes and highest debt in the nation, the government has decided to make some drastic cuts to reduce our debt which is reportedly \$156 billion.

Apart from our regional roads where they have dropped the speed limit back to 60km/h because they can't afford to fix them, in their wisdom they have decided to remove all 73 Fisheries officer positions and replace them with 36 'Engagement' officers to focus on community education. This is a dream come true for the poachers but a nightmare for us law abiding anglers and divers.

Back By Popular Demand

Free live music with Lorne's famous old rocker and living legend, Ronny Hollmer and his Band. Ronny has got the old band back together for one night only so don't miss it.

From 4pm, Easter Sunday 20th April. Member's only.

Our Biggest & Best Home Grown Tomato Competition Ever

Sponsored By Terry White Chemmart Lorne

The 8th running of the Aquatic Club Tomato Competition sponsored by Terry White Pharmacy has been run and won. Our Grand Champion tomato was nurtured through a dry summer by Claire Cotton and was the unanimous pick of the judges.

29 entries vied for honours over the four categories, the smallest and the biggest, the funniest and a new category

introduced on the night, the ugliest and of course, the Grand Champion Tomato.

Judges Leon Armitage and David McCormack taste tested all entries and retested the shortlisted tomatoes to decide on the eventual Grand Champion. Claire Cotton was the ultimate winner with a tomato that ticked off all the tomato qualities of a true champion, taste, sweetness and a hint of tartness, rich colour and a robust skin, a perfect tomato for a French tartine or fried tomatoes on sourdough. It was the winner in a very close competition.

Mens Shed & LAAC Yacht Regatta



We sponsored the recent Men's Shed remote control yacht regatta which was held in the Erskine River at the Swing Bridge on the Monday of the Labour Day Long Weekend. The weather was perfect with a brisk NW Wind blowing down stream. All the yachts were handmade by members of the Men's Shed so they are all individually owned and all have their own name and different coloured sails.

I attended thinking it was going to be as exciting as watching paint dry but it was very entertaining and great fun. It was watched by a pretty large crowd and was followed by a BBQ back at our club.

Continued page 24

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Point Grey Redevelopment Report

The Point Grey Community Reference Group recently met for the seventh time with a focus on traffic management and parking. The approved information to be shared publicly is as follows:

- Outside of coastal hazard adaptation planning, traffic and transport engineering and design will have the most significant influence on the development outcome at Point Grey.
- Any traffic and transport configuration must meet modern design specifications and safety standards, in line with the Austroads Guide to Road Design and the Victoria Planning Provisions.
- We are currently investigating four traffic and transport design options, each with different outcomes and impacts on site functionality and usability.
- The project team and consultants are weighing the pros and cons of each, and your feedback at Wednesday's meeting was invaluable to this process.

Lorne Sculpture Biennale Donation

We gave the Lorne Sculpture Biennale a very generous donation recently to assist them in the running of the event.

CFA Donation

Following our extremely successful Australia Day Fundraiser for the Lorne Fire Brigade we added a substantial amount of money to the days takings and donated it to them recently

Fishing Report

The weather has been sensational with smooth seas and a small swell. The water is an incredible 21 degrees which is unheard of for this time of the year.

Boat

The boat fishing has been excellent with snapper turning up in large numbers after disappearing for the summer but better late than never. They aren't huge but perfect pan sized fish around the 40cm mark with the occasional big one being caught. Flathead are still plentiful with the odd big one being landed. Lots of big Gummy and Schoolies coming in. King George Whiting are still being caught regularly along with Trevally, Salmon, Mackerel, Yakkas, Teraki, Nannygai and the odd Flying Gurnard.

Pier

The pier is continuing its incredible run of great fishing with plenty of Salmon, Snapper, Mullet, Trevally, Flathead, King George Whiting, Grass Whiting, Leatherjackets and Calamari.



Lorne RSL Sub - Branch

Anzac Day Service Friday 25th April 2025

Dawn Service - 7.00am

Gun-Fire breakfast - 7.30am to 8.30am Lorne Bowls Club carpark

10.45am - 12pm - March from Lorne Visitors Centre to ANZAC Memorial Park for 11am Commemorative Service

Follow us on: -   @Lorne_RSL

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A CHANGE OF SEASONS IMPACTS SES LORNE UNIT

By Chris Jones

Looking forward to Autumn and Winter

After a hectic start to the year, we are focusing on ramping up our community engagement, education, and preparation for storm, flood, and landslide events.

Every year, VICSES responds to thousands of storm-related emergency calls for assistance.

Weather any storm with VICSES – Be Storm Smart

Storms can bring down trees, branches, and power lines, damaging property and vehicles and impacting access. Understanding the risks of a storm is crucial, and taking simple steps to protect your property to ensure your safety is also crucial. Preparing early is your best defence against storms.

1. Trim trees and branches away from your home. Cut back branches and trees overhanging your home, shed, or property. A buildup of leaves can block gutters and drains, causing water damage during a storm. Prune smaller branches and leaves yourself but hire a local arborist for large trees or branches.
2. Park your car under cover or away from trees. Ahead of strong winds, park your car under cover or away from trees.
3. Keep gutters, downpipes and drains clear of debris. Blocked gutters and downpipes can cause water to overflow into your roof. Clear leaves and debris from your gutters regularly to prevent water pooling.
4. Secure outdoor furniture and trampolines. Strong winds can turn outdoor furniture and trampolines into dangerous projectiles. Secure outdoor furniture and trampolines with rope strong enough to withstand severe weather. If you're going away, secure these items before leaving.
5. Prepare your emergency kit. Think about what you'd need in an emergency. An emergency kit should be in a sturdy, waterproof container or bag. Being prepared is key; your kit is ready and waiting if an emergency strikes. Keep your emergency kit in a safe place within easy reach.

What to put in your emergency kit:

- Portable radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries
- Medical first aid kit
- Important documents (birth certificates and passports) and emergency contact numbers
- Medications
- Appropriate waterproof clothing and footwear
- Food (staples that don't require heating or cooling) and drinking water
- Pet food
- Phone charger



6. Check your home insurance is up to date. In an emergency, insurance can provide peace of mind and help you recover. Make sure you have adequate cover. This includes building insurance for homeowners and contents insurance for everyone. Check that your policy covers incidents specific to your risk and location, such as storm damage.

A quick reminder.

1. Trim back trees and branches away from your home.
2. Park your car under cover or away from trees.
3. Keep gutters, downpipes and drains clear of debris.
4. Secure outdoor furniture and trampolines.
5. Prepare your emergency kit with essential items.
6. Check your home insurance is up to date.

Never drive on flooded roads.

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

- A small car can be moved by water only 15cm deep. (A 1.05-tonne car with a water flow speed of 3.6 km/h)
- A mid-sized car can be moved by water only 30cm deep. (1.5-tonne car with a water flow speed of 3.6km/h). Fact: Since September 2016, almost 10% of Victoria SES requested assistance related to vehicles involved in floodwater.
- A four-wheel drive can be moved by water only 45cm deep. (2.5-tonne car with a water flow speed of 3.6km/h). Fact: Fatalities associated with 4WDs in floodwater have increased significantly in the last 15 years.

Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast. Stay safe by never driving through floodwater. Leaving early before flooding occurs and visiting family or friends on higher ground is always the safest option.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit
For VICSES emergency response, call 132500
If your situation is life-threatening, call 000



Extra wheelie bins at your house?

We're holding a bin amnesty to collect all unwanted and unpaid extra or upgraded kerbside waste bins.

Each household pays a waste charge through their rates for collection of four bins:

- FOGO (lime green lid)
- Landfill (red lid)
- Recycling (yellow lid)
- Glass (purple lid)

Not sure if you're paying for extra or upgraded (larger) bins?

Or do you want to organise the removal of extra bins?

Call us on **5261 0600** or email **info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au** and include 'Bin Amnesty' in the subject line.

Find out more: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/BinServices.



Planning and Environment Act 1987 SURF COAST PLANNING SCHEME



Notice of the preparation of an amendment to a planning scheme Amendment C147surf

Amendment C147surf implements the recommendations of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme Review 2024 into the Surf Coast Planning Scheme. The amendment does this by introducing new and revised local content into the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework, and schedules to zones, overlays, particular provisions, general provisions, and operational provisions. For further details, refer to the explanatory report about the amendment.

Details of the amendment

The Surf Coast Shire planning authority has prepared Amendment C147surf to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme.

The land affected by the amendment is all land in Surf Coast Shire.

The amendment proposes to introduce new and revised local content into the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework, and schedules to zones, overlays, particular provisions, general provisions, and operational provisions to implement the Surf Coast Planning Scheme Review 2024.

You may inspect the amendment, any documents that support the amendment and the explanatory report about the amendment, free of charge, at:

- the Department of Transport and Planning website planning.vic.gov.au/planning-schemes/amendments/amendments-on-exhibition or by contacting 1800 789 386 to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation;
- The Surf Coast Shire website at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/C147surf;
- on request, during office hours, at the office of the planning authority, 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay by contacting **(03) 5261 0600** to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation.

Any person may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions must be made in writing providing the submitter's name and contact address, clearly stating the grounds on which the amendment is supported or opposed and indicating what changes (if any) the submitter wishes to make.

Name and contact details of submitters are required for the planning authority to consider submissions and to notify such persons of the opportunity to attend planning authority meetings and any public hearing held to consider submissions.

The closing date for submissions is **18 April 2025**. A submission must be sent to the Coordinator Strategic Planning, Surf Coast Shire, PO Box 350, Torquay, 3228 or submitted online via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/C147surf.

The planning authority must make a copy of every submission available at its office and/or its website for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the two months after the amendment comes into operation or lapses.

Kate Sullivan
Manager Integrated Planning

surfcoast.vic.gov.au

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SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

Grand Finals – Pleasure and Pain

Lorne's cricket team in the Colac and District Association were beaten by Carlisle River in the Grand Final played on 8th March. However the Lorne Bowls Club had a team which was victorious in their Grand Final and another team which were Runners-Up. Don Baldwin's article below brings us all the latest Bowls news, but let's first examine the amazing cricket Grand Final.

Cricket Runners-Up

Lorne went into the Grand Final after a solid win over Forrest in the Second Semi Final. Their opponents Carlisle River were one of the top teams throughout the season and so all was poised for an exciting Grand Final. The match was an epic!

Carlisle River won the toss and elected to send Lorne in to bat. Lorne's batting was good with Ed Erftemeyer 67, Ryan Heathcote 40 and Will Seymour 27 not out the main contributors in a final score of 5 for 186 off their allotted 40 overs. This seemed to be a quite good total judging by the scores compiled throughout the season.

However, Carlisle River's batsmen put in a very solid even performance. Toward the completion of their 40 overs, it was clear that it was going to be a very close finish, and the pressure was building on all players. Every ball, run and piece of fielding was proving crucial, contributing to two of the Carlisle River batsmen being run out. The innings finished with Carlisle River totalling 7 for 187 - winning by just one run! This was the tightest finish that you would ever witness in a cricket match. The best of Lorne's bowlers were Josh O'Brien and Ed Erftemeyer each taking two wickets.

With Lorne now being Runners-Up two years in a row it would be easy to be disappointed with the outcome. However, the bigger picture is that Lorne has had a very good season where the cricket club has encouraged, developed and supported players ranging in age from 12 years to mid-sixties. The club actively supported the McGrath Foundation by holding a Pink Stumps Day which was a huge success. A personal milestone was also achieved by Ed Erftemeyer who won not only Lorne's batting average, but the batting average for the whole competition. Well done to the whole team, committee, sponsors and supporters!

Lorne Bowls Club: A Premiership!

Congratulations to Rose Llyod and Lizzie Lugg for making the final of the 21up, with Rose coming out the winner in a good game.



Continuing Club championships, Allan Walls and Jeff Reddie won through to the grand final of the 21up with Allan Walls the winner, marker was Gary Allen.

Winners are gridders and congratulations to Lorne 2 division 4 grand final winners over Colac Lake. Great win to finish off the 24/25 season.

Lorne 2 now go up into division 3. For 25/26 season.

In our other grand final Lorne 1 went down by 7 shots to Winchelsea 2. Lorne 1 should be congratulated on making it to the grand final. Let us go one step further next season.

Lorne Bowls Club presentation night is Thursday 10th April at 6.00pm all bowling members should attend to make a great night.

Sadly, our much-loved member Joe Ragusa has passed away. Joe was an enthusiastic bowler who was always prepared to bowl when asked, even in his later years. His whoop often accompanied a successful bowl. We extend our deepest sympathy to Rosa, his four sons Caesar, Adrian, Anthony and Sam and their families.

From the Green Lorne Bowls Club - Don Baldwin.

Women's Golf

Club Golf

February and March has seen 3 consecutive weeks of Stroke competition to find our 2025 Women's Club Champion. The course has continued to be in great condition, and the weather has been kind over the 3 weeks. With a field of 17 players over Grade A, B and C, it required consistent golf over the 3 weeks to come out as the winner, and it was hard fought to the final round. The winners were: Jan Borwick as overall Club champion and Grade A winner. Janet Higgins won B grade division, and Jenni Miller won C grade. The Snowy Barr - for best Nett score was won by Chris Angus. Congratulations to all our winners on staying focussed and playing some great golf.

Continued page 29

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

From page 27

Jan Borwick will have her name added to the Club Honour board that hangs in the clubhouse - a great honour. We are all now looking forward to NOT playing Stroke for a bit!

Next week, many are heading to Colac for their annual amenities day to play Irish 3BBB format - a day where many of our Lorne golfers play and support our country neighbouring course and enjoy some great country hospitality!

The club now has 4 Golf carts available for hire, and some of our women golfer's are enjoying using them when they need to, and for some, so that they can again play the full 18 holes of competition which had become a little too difficult otherwise, which has been a great outcome.

SWGA events



We are very proud of Sue England and Ann Maree Kennedy who represented our club in the Betty Kernot competition, Div 1. This is a scratch Foursomes (pair) format, match play knock out competition played over 3 rounds and has been running annually since 1971. This year played at Portarlington, Colac, and if you then made it to the final - at Queenscliff.

Last year, Ann Maree and Lynda Stewart were runners up in this competition. This year Sue England stepped in, and the two paired beautifully, showing great grit and determination to get through the first two games knock out and place themselves in the Final, where they faced the Apollo Bay team. On paper, the Apollo Bay team had much lower handicaps, but our girls came out and took the first 3 holes to set themselves up with a chance. Chris Angus and Sue Neill were there to support them and to watch the drama and reported that our team put up a great fight but were pipped by the strong and consistent golf of the Apollo Bay team. Well done Sue and Ann Maree.

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, and also welcome back those that may be "lapsed" golfers!... If you are interested in joining our group, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Sue Neill on 0418 674 062, or Rose Wyles on 0407 860 980.

Happy Golfing - Danni De Bon.

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

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AN ILL WIND *By Doug Williams*

It has not been an ordinary year for tomatoes. After a brilliant early summer, the weather patterns just broke up and slowed ripening down so harvesting has been sporadic and yet the plants are still working hard to keep the produce going.

The return to a gorgeous season has meant an interrupted growth pattern as they start, stop and start again. But if it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good then the crop of blackberries at 'Spot 29' have been picking very well although the berries themselves have been small because there has not been much rain to fatten them up.

To get to my secret spots I have had to drive through the pittosporum grove just below the sewage treatment plant. It continues its long march through the native bushland institutions and there is not really much we can do to prevent this forbidden fruit from penetrating.

And that expression is just one of many idioms we can use to describe things. You are the apple of my eye I say to my loved ones and then tell them that one has to climb to the top of the tree to get the ripest fruit and say that if the lowest fruit is the easiest ones to pick they are not necessarily going to be the best quality, could simply be just small potatoes.

"Holy guacamole! says a grandchild, "who would have thought? It is like comparing apples and oranges you reply, it cannot be done." "All these metaphors pa, you must have a very retentive memory," says a grandchild and I say nothing in reply (if that is possible). I am as cool as a cucumber which is a whole lot better than being nutty as a fruitcake, a term for old people they have not yet learned apply to me; it is forbidden fruit so far.

I do not want to go bananas because that would put me in a bit of a pickle, wouldn't it? All in all, life is just a bowl of cherries.



Which leads me to an area of concern to me as a gardener: is coffee good for plants? I thought not but researched it (looked it up on Google). It contains calcium, nitrogen and magnesium so is good for roses, hydrangeas and lilies but bad for azaleas and camellias - except that another source declares that it is bad for roses, so what do I do?

It might contain feed and improve soil condition and be used as mulch, but I am not letting it into my garden beds - you can make the choice yourselves.

And what about the weather? Evidence of the nagging strong easterly we received in early March shows all the trees that have been burned by so much salt thrown in off Bass Strait by the wind.

The easterly dries out the leaves and increases evaporation so extra water is needed to help against this and is a strong argument for mulching to retain moisture. I have sprayed a laburnum to remove salt but the damage is considerable. Other shrubs and plants have been affected too and the result is obvious but with a difference. I believe the enhanced damage this year is due to the drought we are having. This means that the plants are short of defensive moisture to protect them as they normally can against natural weather extremes.

Some decent rain will be nice.

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THE LORNE VILLAGE

Accommodation issues have long been front and centre of Lorne's collective community mind. Housing has been an ever-vexing and pressing issue, whether as low-cost housing for the [mainly young] workers in hospitality and other seasonal jobs or for our older pension-dependent and commonly single retirees who need a helping hand to find affordable accommodation in the community they have served so well.

Whether as a victim of its success as a tourist destination, its wealth, or its limited topography, Lorne's available low-cost housing—both for purchase or medium to long-term rental—has been priced far beyond the means of the very people who need it most ... young families and tradies, seasonal hospitality workers, and the township's elderly.

While worker accommodation is a critical problem, and though countless meetings, plans, and proposals have been advanced to solve it, all have faltered at financial, practical, or locational hurdles and have as yet failed to reach maturity. As the battles over where, how, and how much rage on, young workers camp out or manage as best they can in Lorne's financially hostile environment. However, although worker housing remains to be solved, it is a topic for another time.

Meanwhile, and to the heart of this article, the 16 units in The Lorne Village on lower Clissold Street that have provided care and comfort for our older citizens for fifty years and that stand as a testament to Lorne's passion for 'can-do' volunteerism are facing transitional changes. To understand the reasons for this, it is crucial to document the history of this incredible community asset.

The idea for The Lorne Village [sometimes referred to as The Lions Village due to its origins in the Lorne Lions Club] arose in 1973 when the Lorne Lions Club formed the Elderly People Homes Society, contracted to buy land, and appealed to the community for assistance.

Six Lions members and six generous holiday home-owners [including John Dooley, Garth Harry, and Alf Nicholson] raised sufficient funds to encourage the Winchelsea Shire Council to grant additional land.

In March 1975, the Department of Social Security approved the project in principle but advised that no funds would be available for the project for some years.

To keep faith with the community, the local committee of volunteers decided to go it alone and built the first eight units from its own resources, including a bank loan from the CBA for \$60,000, secured by three local benefactors [Michael Hickey, Lloyd Hinton, and Roy Jones].

While some government funding was forthcoming in late 1978, Units 1–8 were already operating. When opening The Village in May of that year, the Federal Member for Corangamite, the Hon. AA [Tony] Street, stated that "... he had never experienced a project with so much community involvement". He paid tribute to the community for "... having had enough faith in themselves to go ahead".

Graeme Wheal, a prime mover in the project, acknowledged the substantial donations from several trusts, the CWA, RSL, Lorne's church auxiliaries, the Lions Club, and the wider Lorne community. The sign outside reads, "Lorne Village: A combined Lions Club and Community Project".

By August 1980, the CBA loan had been discharged and six more [Units 9–14] had been built and opened. By 1991, Units 15–16 had been added.



Turning to the crux of this article ... throughout the last 50 years, The Lorne Village has been run and managed by a group of dedicated volunteers, with some serving for over 15 years. However, as with most volunteer organisations, time and energy prove finite and by 2019, it was clear that a professional Retirement Village management team was needed.

When the current committee realised they could no longer sustain long-term management, an extensive search determined that the Sirovilla operational model would best honour the underlying principle of Lorne Village "... that the land and buildings must always remain with the Lorne community as The Lorne Village Inc. and that the land must also be used only as a Retirement Village. To this end, a covenant was placed on the title that could only be lifted by the relevant Minister.

The Sirovilla Elderly People's Home Inc. was established [also in the early 1970s] by the Social Club of the CSIRO in Belmont and became an autonomous body in 1972.

Continued page 35

LORNE TO COLAC SUMMER BUS SERVICE

Analysis of patronage figures for 2024-2025

We wish to thank The Colac Herald for their unwavering support of the Colac-Birregurra-Deans Marsh-Lorne public summer bus service.

To assist the community, we are providing a response to the article "Numbers drop off on Lorne bus" published on Monday 24th March 2025 on page 4 by Trinity Knight.

We have recently received the patronage figures for the summer service just passed. Unfortunately, to receive these numbers from the Senior Analyst at the Department of Transport, we are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement, so we cannot publish the exact figures.

Surprisingly this restriction didn't occur when The Colac Herald journalist spoke to the Media Department of the DoT.

The patronage figures show some reductions on last year.

However, you may not be aware that the duration of the service was 5 weeks, not 6 weeks, as has been the case in previous years.

The service commences on the 3rd Friday in December - 20th December 2024. And concludes on the last Sunday the following January - 26th January 2025.

The service did not operate on the Australia Day Public Holiday - Monday 27th January 2025.

With this shortening of the service, the reduction in numbers, is not too unexpected, as the Manager of

Christians Bus Line has confirmed with us in a recent conversation.

An analysis of the figures shows that the total patronage is within a couple of trips of 2023-2024 patronage figures. Ideally, we would have liked to have reported a good increase!

We request the community's support, understanding and patronage to increase the frequency of this public bus service in future years.

Going forward we expect that the 2025 bus service will commence on Friday 19th December 2025 (13 days) and conclude on Sunday 25th January 2026 (25 days).

Total of 38 days as opposed to 42 days (six weeks). Ideally, we would appreciate being able to work with the DoT to have a more flexible and response bus service to accommodate the public holidays.

And instead operate for a minimum of six weeks as originally envisaged.

However, be assured that we have no intention of giving up this campaign. As we both have learnt over the years, one needs to plug away, sometimes for years, before we can make any form of government really listen.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through this publication with any questions and ideas.

Juliet Beatty – Deans Marsh
Elizabeth Ryan - Birregurra

WE MANAGE VICTORIA'S BUSHFIRE RISK TOGETHER

A letter from the Chief Fire Officer

As summer fades and autumn begins, we take a moment to reflect on the challenges of extreme heat, bushfires and storms over the past months have tested communities across the state, reinforcing the importance of preparedness, swift response and resilience.

The seasonal outlook shows a higher chance of warmer maximum temperatures into early autumn which may delay the start of planned burning in some parts of the state. It also raises opportunities for planned burning targeting areas that are not usually available under autumn conditions.

Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable.

As soon as favourable weather and forest conditions arrive, we'll be making sure all available resources are delivering

planned burning, with a strong focus on priority areas like Midlands, Yarra Ranges, Murrindindi, Ovens, Otways and Latrobe Valley.

There may be some forest and road closures in place during and after planned burning. Visit the Planned Burns Victoria website before you travel to make sure your trip isn't affected.

If you live in or are visiting an area where planned burning is taking place, there's a good chance you'll see FFMVic firefighters preparing locations or delivering planned burns. They'll be the ones in our distinctive green firefighting uniforms.

Register for the latest updates if you want to know more about where and when we burn at <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>.

Chris Hardman - AFSM
Chief Fire Officer - Forest Fire Management Victoria

From page 33

Importantly, its charter ... "to provide, develop, manage, operate, and maintain affordable housing units for independent low-income seniors"... aligned well with the principles of The Lorne Village. And, as a registered charity and non-for-profit organisation [see: <https://www.sirovilla.org.au/>], Sirovilla was already providing retirement village housing in Highton [64 units], Anglesea [18 units] and Point Lonsdale (16 units), and operating under the Retirement Villages Act.

A Memorandum of Understanding covering due diligence, the commercial terms of formal Village management, and the future steps required to reach a Binding Agreement was signed with Sirovilla Inc. on 22.01.25.

During the transition to Village management by Sirovilla, the current Lorne Village Committee will continue to support all residents. The partnership and the new arrangements will not impact existing residents whose current tenancy will remain protected under the Retirement Villages Act.

The units will operate according to all policies and procedures governing the operation of Sirovilla's existing villages at Highton and Anglesea. The rental charge is 25% of eligible income and 100% of the Commonwealth Rental Assistance. An ingoing contribution may be required based on a resident's ability to pay, the amount being calculated on the residents' defined assets to a payable maximum of \$60,000. The ability to pay an ingoing contribution is not an admission criterion.

Prospective residents must be 67 years old and be receiving an aged pension through Centrelink. Priority will be given to applicants from postcode 3232. Sirovilla will work with the current Lorne Village Committee to identify locals in need and create a register of interest for future vacancies. Application may be made by submitting the form found at the Sirovilla website.

While it is possible [indeed probable] that other communities have been equally well-served by their citizen groups, Lorne is a shining example of a working, caring, cohesive town with a [near-tireless] ethos of volunteerism. But while there can be no better example of this than The Lorne Village Inc., its current Committee ... Martin Heathcote, Clive Goldsworthy, Ross Dimsey, Ken Hosking, Maureen Dandy, and Peter Wheal ... could tell that the time had come to place the Village in professional management hands. They are confident they have chosen well and that Sirovilla's track record of care and compassion will fulfil all expectations.

It remains to say that these selfless few deserve our deepest gratitude. Their quiet, fuss-free, and voluntary commitment has ensured that The Lorne Village will remain sustainable and will serve the needs of our older citizens long into the future.

OP SHOP BUZZ

By Wendy Jarratt

Oh, What A Night

The grand opening of the redeveloped Lorne Community Op Shop was held on February 28th in the shop itself. It was quite amazing



to see how many of our members, supports and friends could fit in with champagne glass in hand. We would like to thank them all for coming along to help us celebrate.

Loris Yorke our "eldest" member did the honour of cutting the ribbon to make it all official. We also shared a lovely sponge cake from – guess where??? The finger food, catered by Suzanne, was delicious and generous, a beautiful spread enjoyed by all. Speeches were given and the sub-Committees acknowledged for their efforts over the past 12 months.

We have now mostly settled in, and it is back to business. Community groups please let us know via the secretary, of any projects that could do with some funding.

The Quiet Achievers

On a recent trip along the NSW South Coast the one Op Shop I was really looking forward to visiting was the Mallacoota Community Op Shop. In 2020, when Mallacoota was surrounded by fires, our then committee tried to contact their shop with offers of help. We didn't hear from anyone, and I had always wondered how they were getting on. The shop is the first you notice as you enter the main street. There we met Gayle, one of only 12 volunteers who run a thriving little shop. They open most days of the week but with generally one volunteer on duty. Amazing there are 2 Op Shops in Mallacoota, the other one church affiliated. You couldn't imagine two more different looking Op Shops than Lorne, with our fabulous redevelopment and Mallacoota operating out of a rented space. However both have the same purpose, to fund hospital, school, emergency services, CFA and in fact most areas in which their communities need assistance.

Gayle only spoke briefly about the fire – she mentioned people's generosity in donating items which could be processed by the Op Shop to be used by fire impacted families. Gayle laughed when recounting how her family had been in Mallacoota since the early eighties, but she had only moved back from Sydney that year to look after her mother. Her mother had predicted fires for all those years but Gayle, unluckily, was there to experience them. Every volunteer has a story, as does every Op Shop.



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AUTUMN FASHION MUSINGS *By Renea Forsyth*

Our recent summer was one of the warmest in years and barely a cardigan required. A long sleeved shirt being essential to shield the sun and barely a cool breeze. Autumn has us longing for comfy layers. Bring out your jeans, favourite jumper and jacket.

Trade in the thongs for sneakers and boots. There are some distinct Colours and Looks that define Autumn Winter 2025 for those that love a little update to the wardrobe. Burgundy, Brick Red going towards Chocolate are all starring this year and bring richness and warmth to your look.

One can start with a bag or shoe in the tone and bring it through to a full suit if desired.

Find the shade that works for you. Green is appearing in soft moss into bottle green shades. It pairs well with Black, Ivory and Tan.

Animal Print is everywhere and is a textured neutral. Leopard, Snake, Zebra, Faux Fur complete with markings resembling the real thing provide tactile comfort. This animal influence is extending to Spring with spots particularly on sheer draped fabric such as soft blouses and dresses.

Now for luxury with Coats which are appearing in longer lengths this season and fastened with bows and belts. Faux Fur, Wool Cashmere Blends, Leather and of course the Puffer will keep you cosy when the temperature plummets.



Pointed toe shoes are appearing under wide leg pants this winter and look wonderful with dresses.

In a kitten heel or boot you will be very much on trend; they also make your legs look longer. If a sleek casual vibe is what you are after a smart sneaker will take you places as it has in the past years.

It's actually a great way to extend the outfitting options for leather pants which had often been reserved for dressy occasions, paired with a sweatshirt there is a cool day outfit for coffee with friends.

Add the long coat and a peaked cap to keep the weather out and look fabulous.

If it's a tapered or straight styled trouser that you like to wear, we love a loafer for the season. The

Penny Loafer has a structured look and is still casual. A dark washed slim leg denim jean cut to the ankle is the perfect partner to a black leather loafer.

Handbags finish an outfit and should always be well considered. A small bag with a pretty chain strap will work for a lunch or evening out.

Fabric cross body bags are casual and compliment your morning walking gear. Totes and Shoulder bags in Woven Leather, Suede or even Fabric also fit the bill for a Winter Day Bag, choose a size that works for all that you need to carry. The finish should link with a shoe and complement your overall look.

Embrace the New Season and Enjoy

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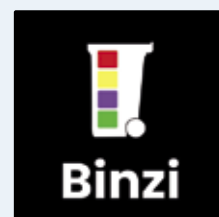
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WAYNE BISHOP

By Garry Fenton

Wayne was born in Sandringham and went to school at Lloyd Street Central School in East Malvern before going to Melbourne High. He then attended Melbourne University and completed a Diploma in Physical Education. 'I always had an interest in sport and sports management.'

Wayne played cricket and baseball in Melbourne and represented Victoria in baseball, playing in the Claxton Shield which was the premier competition in Australia.

Wayne began work as a teacher; his first job was the sports master and phys. ed. teacher at Camberwell High School. Not long after that Wayne married Laurel and they moved to Canada where he completed graduate and undergraduate degrees at what is now the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He then worked as a Director of Athletics at York University in Toronto for three years. Their two daughters were born in Canada, Kylie in Edmonton, and Nicki in Toronto. They now have four grandchildren who come to Lorne on a regular basis.

After returning to Australia, Wayne became a founding member of what is now the Faculty of Sports Science at Victoria University.

'We set up from scratch a department, which is now regarded as one of the top ten faculties for Sport Science globally. We were approached by a couple of large employers who wanted to put gymnasiums in corporate facilities, if we could help them, which we did. We helped design a gym in Collins Place for ANZ and another health insurance company in NSW. That got me really interested in the corporate area, in particular corporate fitness. At the same time, we could see an avenue or an opportunity for some of the graduates, and the rest is history.'

We set up a consultancy (Activetics P/L) in corporate fitness, before joining with another group of doctors, physiotherapists and health professionals to form one of the first sports medical centres in Melbourne. We recruited students and exercise physiologists from the University and conducted stress tests on senior executives from some of our larger employers. In time, these activities grew into broader workplace health programs. The business was purchased by a health insurer HBA and in partnership with other health insurers operated across the country. They employed a lot of graduates from the universities which was a great experience for them as well.

'I'm very proud of that legacy. Former students and employees are now community leaders, business leaders, international coaches, and sports managers.'



I stayed involved in worksite programs. In more recent years Activetics operated under the name of Changing Gears and worked with organisations in assisting mature age employees in their transitions from full time work

That gave us exposure to Men's Sheds. We undertook a project in Ballarat around 2010 where they were studying what happens when people leave work, and loose camaraderie and relationships of the workplace. We challenged them about this "how are you going to replace that". For a lot of people, it is very difficult and from Wayne's background in health he knows the downsides of social isolation. They looked at ways and means of connecting people, recognising that not staying connected can be a health hazard.

That has attracted Wayne to the Shed as he enjoys the camaraderie and the friendliness, and from his work experience may be able to assist some members if needed.

Wayne would like to contribute to the Men's Shed from his field of work. 'Not in the workshop,' he joked, 'I could be a health hazard in the workshop!'

'When we talk to people about to transition out of work, we ask what is so good about working here? It's always around relationships and camaraderie and we ask how you are going to replace that and most times they haven't thought about it', Wayne explained.

Wayne is now semi-retired but is still asked to assist employees with transitioning from full time work.

The family have had a house in Lorne since the late eighties, which they have come to on a regular basis with the entire family and the extended family. They have a very strong family association with Lorne. Since moving to Lorne on a more permanent basis some months ago, travel and part time work have prevented him coming to the Shed very often, but he expects that to change, and he looks forward to becoming more involved.



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Picks of the Month



FICTION: Signs of Damage by Diana Reid



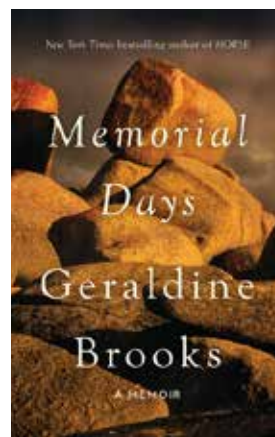
The Kelly family's idyllic holiday in the south of France is disturbed when Cass, a thirteen-year-old girl, goes missing. She's discovered several hours later with no visible signs of injury. Everyone present dismisses the incident as a close brush with tragedy. Sixteen years later, at a funeral, Cass collapses. The present and the past start to collide as buried secrets come to light and old doubts resurface. What really happened to Cass in the south of France? And what's wrong with her now?

A gripping tale of unravelling memories and moral ambiguities, *Signs of Damage* wrestles with the difference between understanding other people, and trying to explain them.

NON-FICTION: Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks

In 2019 Geraldine Brooks was devastated by the sudden death of her beloved husband, Tony Horwitz, in 2019, without space to grieve, the sudden loss became a yawning gulf. Three years later, she booked a flight to a remote island off the coast of Australia with the intention of finally giving herself the time to mourn.

A spare and profoundly moving memoir that joins the classics of the genre, *Memorial Days* is a portrait of a larger-than-life man and a timeless love between souls that exquisitely captures the joy, agony, and mystery of life.



Children's Fiction: A Present for Junket by Mandy Wildsmith & Nancy Liu



In *A Present for Junket*, a sweet dog called Gherkin goes looking for a birthday present for her best friend. But what does make the perfect gift? The answer may surprise you ...

From an exciting new picture-book duo comes this entertaining neighbourhood adventure about friendship, generosity and the secret lives of dogs. Packed with gentle humour, a subtle 'make do and mend' message, and glorious watercolour artwork from illustrator Nancy Liu, this sweet picture book is perfect for toddlers, doggy fans and rubbish-truck enthusiasts alike!

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