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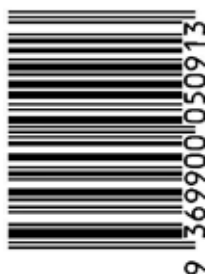
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GORCAPA PRESENTS PLANS

Garry Fenton, creator of the
Men of the Shed series



Lorne Independent Inc.

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LOCAL MARKETS

Lorne Foreshore Market:

9PM-3PM 7th June, 1st November

Torquay Farmers Market:

Every Saturday 8.30AM to 1PM

Winchelsea Community Market:

First Sunday of every month 9AM to 1PM

Aireys Inlet Market:

8 JUN, 13 JUL 9AM to 1PM

EDITORIAL

By Janet Goud - Editor

Once more we look at what GORCAPA is doing to Lorne. This time they made an effort and brought forward the public viewing of their plans for Point Grey, following the hugely unfavourable reaction to the sudden closure of the old Co-op and the notice of its impending demolition.

(Note the Plan and feedback opportunity is in the following GORCAPA page.)

However, the issue of continuity of GORCAPA staff has become a big issue: Resignations of the CEO, the chief Planning Officer and four Project Managers hardly makes for a build up of confidence in the ongoing plans.

The Urban Development Framework plans released show the complexity of the various overlays of Government departments' requirements that Point Grey is subject to. It is not an architect's impression with buildings featured, but it does give us an idea of the way the space will be divided up. Small envelopes show size of buildings- a small kiosk, the LAAC and the public toilets. There will be fewer car places, yet a large empty space is shown and the tram tracks seem to be all that is left of the various historical eras of Lorne.

Once again, the development of this presentation was done without consultation of our community representatives. This alone stands as an insult to us all and the community reps who have given up many valuable hours to try to ensure that we have input into this historically important place.

The presentation of the Urban Development Framework was a bridge too far for these Representatives who sent a message (see P7 Surf Coast Times) after viewing the UDF "that GORCAPA publicly and unequivocally state.....,that the members of the Community Reference Group have had no or minimal involvement in the preparation of the draft UDF and do not endorse the document."

Two members of that Community Reference Group have sent articles describing the situation, which we will print following this editorial, together with a couple of letters from people with definite views on the developments so far. John Agar presents yet another view.

I urge you all to read these and inform yourselves so you can make up your own mind.

GORCAPA has belatedly made times to consult many Lorne Groups. Do not let this pass!!

Make sure your views are noted. Have a view about the Co-op building – demolition or renovation or at the very least a rebuild with rescued timbers and joists which pays homage to its industrial past? Open space? Car parks? LAAC without extra land?

It is our heritage, and we must all insist on being consulted in its evolution. We may not all get what we want, but we can all then at least have contributed.

I leave you with the plan that had common agreement in 2022, was approved by both the authority and the community but has seemed to have disappeared without trace. Another instance of lack of continuity and disregard for history.





HAVE YOUR SAY

on the Point Grey Redevelopment Draft Urban Design Framework

Point Grey is a much-loved local landmark, valued by the Victorian community, locals residents and visitors alike. The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority will deliver important upgrades to revitalise the precinct, supporting both the regional economy and the Lorne and Surf Coast Shire community.

The Draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) is a planning strategy that sets out the vision for the Point Grey precinct. It provides design guidelines and requirements for built form, open space, access, heritage, and more.

As part of the community engagement, we're inviting both locals and visitors to share their memories and photos of the precinct and in particular the Lorne Fishing Co-op – celebrating the people, stories, and moments that have helped shape this special place.

How Can You Get Involved?

EXPLORE THE DRAFT UDF AND COMPLETE THE SURVEY

You're invited to explore the Draft UDF document and complete the survey. Please scan the QR code below or visit the webpage to find out more:

haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment

You can also email:

haveyoursay@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

IN-PERSON DROP-IN:

- Stribling Reserve: Friday 6 June | 3pm – 6pm
- Lorne Market: Saturday 7 June | 9am – 1pm
- Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park Office:
Wednesday 11 and 18 | 10am – 1pm

ONLINE SESSIONS:

- Tuesday 3 June | 5 – 6pm
- Tuesday 17 June | 12 – 1pm

Please register online to receive the link.



All community input will inform the next phase of the project, with the final Urban Design Framework to be released later in 2025, with construction expected to begin in 2026.



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY



Australian Government

POINT GREY: A PLAN FOR A PLAN?

By Karen Pitt

By the time you read this, GORCAPA's draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the Point Grey redevelopment will be publicly available on GORCAPA's website, probably on this page - <https://haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment>.

And many of you will have read the article by James Taylor on page 7 of the 23 May Surf Coast Times, which lists the criticisms of the UDF made last week to GORCAPA by the Point Grey Community Reference Group (CRG).

I am one of the ten members of the Point Grey CRG, but I write as an individual to urge the Lorne community to read the UDF and submit their comments via the website. It will be too late to comment or object to the UDF when demolition of the old Lorne Fishing Co-op has commenced.

The UDF is a complex document – 41 A3 pages of small font text, site plans and attractive photos. That complexity reflects that the UDF was prepared to provide a framework for compliance with the (at least) 15 planning schemes/overlays, formal government policies and Acts of the Victoria Parliament listed on pages 7-9 of the UDF. Too many overlays and legislation? Possibly.

In this article, I try to highlight the key parts of the UDF that should be read closely, and you may prefer to read this with a copy of the UDF open on your screen.

Yes, this project has been mooted for decades, with minimal progress other than the damage that results from lack of maintenance. Page 11 of the UDF summarises community engagement since 1998, including the outcomes of the 2024 Community Engagement Survey – which drew 1,141 respondents, an indication of how strongly the community feels about this area. Over 75% of respondents strongly agreed on the importance of the current look and feel of the Co-op buildings to the area's character.

The crux of the UDF is on pages 27-35 (parts 6.1 to 7.3), which include site plans depicting the footprint and function of the buildings and, on page 37, the manner in which the site's heritage will be acknowledged.

GORCAPA has the opportunity to redevelop the Point Grey site to create an amazing space – one that will allow visitors and the local community to engage with the history of the timber, tourism and fishing industries in the place where that history was made, as well as gain an understanding of the use of this site by the original inhabitants. This site could be as much of a visitor magnet as the Tathra NSW Wharf Museum.

Personally I am very disappointed that the UDF makes it clear that the Co-op building will be demolished; that the food and drink premises in its place will merely “provide opportunities for users to rest and rejuvenate” (p.27);

that only the tram tracks are to be retained (p. 35); and that the site's history post European settlement will be acknowledged only by “education signage incorporated into the Food & Drink premises” (p.35), which premises will “incorporate references to the historical Co-op building”, whatever “incorporate references” means.

It is also disappointing that the UDF provides for a “central sculptural element” (p.35) to be installed in the lower paved area, which sculpture will only reference the Eastern Maar Community. That history should indeed be acknowledged, but GORCAPA has the opportunity here to celebrate the whole of the cultural history of this site – a bringing together of the site's role in the timber, tourism and fishing industries as well as a gathering place for the traditional owners. It seems careless and inappropriate to celebrate only one of those cultural influences in the central open part of the site.

Other members of the Point Grey CRG have and will continue to comment on their disappointment with the UDF. Again, many of you will have read the article by the Chair of the Committee for Lorne on page 18 of the 23 May Surf Coast Times highlighting inadequate car parking and uncertainty around recognition of the site's history.

I endorse those concerns and confirm that while GORCAPA provided a forum for the CRG to comment, GORCAPA staff do not seem to have been listening. Which I assume is why GORCAPA's website states only that the draft UDF “has been informed with the insight of the project's Community Reference Group.” –The Point Grey CRG has not approved the draft UDF, nor were we even offered a meeting with Human Habitats, the consultants who prepared the UDF.

So, Next Steps? I urge each of you to read the draft UDF published on GORCAPA's website, discuss it when you are out walking the dog or in the queue at Foodworks and make your views known.

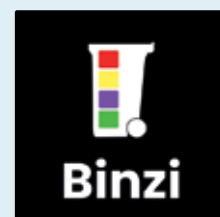
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COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

By John Higgins

This week GORCAPA released the draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the Point Grey redevelopment for community input. Over the next week GORCAPA will be holding information sessions with community groups regarding the draft UDF. There are also a number of drop-in sessions over the June long-weekend and some on-line sessions.

Please go to haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-development for further information. Please make the time if you can to attend one or more of these sessions to understand more of what is proposed for Point Grey, what the concerns of the community are, and to share your views with GORCAPA and your fellow community members. Please also make sure that you put in a written submission before the closing date of June 22.

The draft UDF is deficient in a number of respects including:

- It is focussed around a large open plaza which eliminates more than half the existing car parking. Given the intention of the precinct redevelopment is to attract visitors to the site, the removal of already stretched car parking can only lead to traffic congestion and visitor frustration. The pier is the plaza, we don't need another one!

- While the draft UDF pays appropriate respect to the aboriginal cultural heritage of the site, there is minimal reference to the site's maritime, tourism, timber and fishing heritage.
- There are no boat washing facilities. It has long been a tradition to watch the fishing boats unload and clean the day's catch next to the Aquatic Clubhouse. We are now being told that there cannot be a boat wash in the current location due to traffic and safety issues, and there can't be one elsewhere on the site due to environmental, coastal hazard or financial reasons. The solution proposed by GORCAPA and their consultants is to take your boat to a commercial carwash (think Colac or Torquay) or wash it on your lawn at home! The Aquatic Club regards the boat wash as an integral part of its operations, does not accept the position adopted in the draft UDF, and has proposed an on-site solution which GORCAPA have agreed to consider.

Please note that the Community Reference Group (CRG) had no significant input into the draft UDF and does not endorse it.

Please let GORCAPA know that we will not accept development at Point Grey which does not reflect the heritage of the site or the needs of our local and visitor communities.

OP SHOP BUZZ *By Karen Pitt (Wendy J is in Italy)*

School holidays are over and Winter is Coming. But you would never know if you visited the op shop during the Mother's Day weekend. Excellent and saleable donations were delivered and our sales revenue for that weekend was strong.

Our first customer on Saturday 10 May was delighted with a pre-1950 leather handbag which she bought from us to carry with her edgy retro outfit at an Awards night for a Melbourne inner city organisation. One of the joys of volunteering at the op shop is celebrating with our customers when they find that special pre-loved item – whether it is a pre-1950 handbag or a Spode plate or a hand sewn toy that spoke to a child from the big tubs at floor level.

Our recent donations to the community include over \$4,000 to Great Ocean Road Health for purchase of a Demascope – a tool that allows inspection and analysis of skin lesions unobstructed by reflections on the surface

of the skin. And I believe the Letters to the Editor in this edition include a letter from Jenifer Collins about her very positive experience with a piece of equipment donated recently to Great Ocean Road Health by the op shop.

Thank you again to our varied and generous donors. We remind you that we cannot take electrical goods, second-hand baby equipment [highchairs, cots, car seats] or many furniture items. Why? A mix of legal prohibitions for safety reasons and lack of space. And please, please, please do not leave your donations outside the shop. We are open from 10.00 am each day.

For larger items of furniture which merit a price of over \$50, we are willing to offer them on our Facebook page, but we do not have storage space. If you do want to donate something special that will generate a higher sale price, please visit the shop or send us a message and photo at lorneopshopsec@gmail.com

LETTERS ABOUT THE COOP DEMOLITION

Lorne Fishermen's Co-operative – Do not be misled

On 9 May a Press Release by GORCAPA indicated that a decision has been made to demolish the Lorne Fishermen's Co-operative Building with "careful recovery of historic materials". The decision is attributed to "Independent assessments confirming structural decline", and that "the building has reached the end of its useful life".

The community of Lorne need to understand that the technical assessments do not make any recommendation for demolition of all or part of the Co-operative Building. The technical assessments merely provide a list of defects. As with most older buildings, there are some defects, and these can always be repaired and remediated.

Around the world and in towns all over Australia there are historic buildings which have been restored and repurposed to provide communities with valuable assets which physically preserve the story of local site history.

GORCAPA seem to be moving with unseemly haste towards demolition without providing the Lorne community with the full back story about GORCAPA's intentions.

The community should at the very least be given the full truth.

What options are there related to possible preservation of the whole or part of the original 1949 building? What would be the cost? It is likely to be feasible and within the total budget package available for the Point Grey Project, so GORCAPA should give an updated report on the current budget for the Point Grey project.

Also to be considered is the possible total cost of demolition of the original building and replacing it with some non-descript and unwanted replacement building housing toilets and/or cafe. This is likely to cost more than preservation of the Fishermen's Cooperative building.

It does not make much sense for GORCAPA to plan to demolish without first seeking consent from the Lorne Community. Previous surveys by GORCAPA gave a clear indication that the vast majority of the Lorne community favour preservation of the historic values associated with the Point Grey precinct.

If GORCAPA wish to genuinely work with the Lorne community in delivering the Point Grey project, they need to earn the trust of the community. The way to do this is to consult the community first, then make decisions which are supported by the community.

The decision to demolish the Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative in the absence of genuine community consultation clearly goes against Ministerial guidelines, directions and expectations which are documented on the GORCAPA website.

From John Barker, former fisherman, spokesperson for Friends of Point Grey

Going, Gone Forever – Fishing Co-op

Point Grey Redevelopment: A Call for Clarity and Community Engagement

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 provide a clear explanation as to why the Lorne Historical Society (LHS) must vacate the Fishing Co-operative building by the end of May. Nor have they released an updated project timeline or detailed plans for the new development. This lack of transparency undermines community trust and raises questions about the process behind the Point Grey redevelopment.

Building's Condition: Misunderstood and Misrepresented: There remains a widespread misunderstanding within the community about the nature of the central 1948–49 Co-op building. Unlike the adjacent structures, it is robustly constructed with a solid floor and double-brick walls that show no structural cracking. While any 75-year-old building may fall short of today's building codes, a heritage architect could likely refurbish it economically and safely. Concerns about asbestos have been raised, but the Co-op building itself was never properly inspected. Consultants reportedly did not enter due to the absence of a key, and no follow-up was undertaken. If asbestos is present, it is most likely limited to exterior guttering. This insufficient assessment should not form the basis of a demolition decision.

An Opportunity to Preserve and Celebrate Lorne's Heritage: If full restoration proves unfeasible, demolition should still not be the only option. Architectural elements of historical significance could—and should—be thoughtfully incorporated into any new structure on this site. I have long advocated for a 100m² exhibition space within the redeveloped Co-op building. This proposal enjoys strong community support and would help preserve and interpret four key chapters of Lorne's rich history:

1. Lorne's fishing industry—a cornerstone of our economic and social fabric
2. The timber industry of the Otways
3. Indigenous occupation of Point Grey
4. The arrival of tourists by ship from the 1870s onward

Such an exhibition space directly relates to the site and its coastal history. Dismissing it on the basis of the Marine and Coastal Act (MACA) seems overly restrictive. A compelling case can be made that this use is, in fact, coastal-dependent. If the tram tracks are to be preserved, they should lead to something more meaningful than a set of public toilets.

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Our community—and its visitors—deserve more than a café and restrooms in such a historically significant location.

A Practical and Proven Model: The proposed exhibition space could be integrated seamlessly with a café or public area and remain accessible during operating hours, requiring no dedicated staff. Similar arrangements exist successfully along the Victorian coast, such as the Queenscliff Maritime Museum and other shoreline museums, which combine tourism, heritage, and public amenity. This is not a costly or complicated vision—it is a practical, respectful, and enriching one.

The Need for Genuine Engagement and Design Transparency: GORCAPA's most recent Urban Design Framework (UDF), developed by yet another consultancy, is underwhelming. It features vague rectangular outlines for buildings, general language, and—most notably—a continued absence of concrete design proposals.

The report mentions cultural heritage and the importance of conserving historically significant features such as the Co-op structure, the historic pier, and the tram tracks. Yet in the same breath, it suggests the new food and beverage venue might merely "incorporate references" to the old Co-op building. What does that mean in practice? A few fishing nets on the wall? Some cray pots in a corner? Symbolic nods are not a substitute for meaningful integration of heritage into design.

Conclusion

Lorne's social and industrial history deserves proper recognition in this redevelopment. I urge GORCAPA to engage sincerely and transparently with the community, and to adopt a more thoughtful, historically sensitive approach.

Let us not lose something of deep significance under the guise of progress. With vision and collaboration, we can honour the past while shaping a future the whole community can be proud of.

By Kevin Diviny, Immediate Past President of the LHS



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Two projects are eligible for the \$10,000 grant but only one can win.



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Project 1 – Geelong Sustainability Group and Common Ground Project partnering with **Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation** to deliver local community sessions empowering the community to become active stewards in our shared climate future.

Project 2 – Common Ground Project partnering with **Winchelsea Primary School** to enable all students to learn about regenerative gardening at Common Ground and use this knowledge to create sustainable gardens at school and home.

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MEN OF THE SHED

Final of the long SAGA: Men of the Shed

Fittingly we finish meeting these fine men of the Lorne Mens Shed with the writer of these many short biographies... Garry Fenton.

In 2010, Garry had no knowledge of Men's Sheds, but he was forced to do some quick research when the Lorne Hospital Board of which he was member at the time, decided to become involved in a request to assist the Primary School in developing a Men's Shed in the town which both local men and school students could share. Heather Ramp and Garry were nominated to represent the Hospital.

Problems developed with the differences between the school's perceived plan and the requirements for a Community Men's Shed. This development eventually did not come to fruition.

When Garry first heard of a meeting at the Bowls Club to test the interest for a possible Men's Shed in Lorne, he was less than interested after being involved in the previous failed attempt. A last-minute decision to attend and walking out after the meeting being one of six nominated for the Steering Committee, he wondered if he was foolish accepting the position, especially as he barely knew the others nominated.

He soon found out from the very first meeting the Steering Committee were all "doers", and had a 'make things happen' attitude which suited Garry's impatient nature perfectly.

He also found out impatience would not work, patience would be a virtue, and frustration would become constant in his life. This had nothing to do with the people on the Steering Committee but other people and issues they had to deal with. Many times, it would have been easy to just give up, but the gritted teeth of the Steering Committee leader, Allan, and the determination of others, meant there would be no giving up.

Garry was involved in agriculture all his life. Firstly, on the family property near Ballarat in Victoria, and then near Keith and Naracoorte in South Australia. From sitting on pillows so he could see over the steering wheel to drive the farm truck, and mustering sheep on horseback with dogs as an eight or ten-year old, right through to his full retirement from farming in 2014, it was non-stop farming. He really enjoyed developing properties, keeping up with the latest technology and machinery, planning and developing new farm structures such as sheds, fencing and pasture improvement along with normal daily activities.

The only deviation from this was Agro politics and being involved on a variety of Agricultural and other Advisory



Boards. One of the most interesting was as Chairman of the South Australian Sheep Advisory Board. The Board advised the State Government on all things sheep, from disease and health regulations, to setting levies from all sheep owners for the maintenance of the Dog Fence, which kept dingoes and wild dogs from the land used for sheep production. It was the longest fence in the world from The Great Australian Bight in South Australia to the Darling Downs in Queensland.

Garry met Marny and they both came from similar farming backgrounds. They were married in Geelong in the church they both attended whilst at boarding school. They have had different interests over the years. Her interests are art and community based, and Garry's are community involvement and sport.

After school and studying in Geelong, Marny trained in Fashion Design and Needlecrafts. She worked for a couture salon in Melbourne's Block Arcade and ran her own label, 'Marny,' in country Victoria. She has been involved in Community Arts and Institutions in Victoria and South Australia as an artist and sculptor throughout her adult life. For 28 years, she ran a furniture restoration course.

Continued page 11

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Marny believes “art is a part of everything.” Garry still wonders that 60 years later “she still puts up with me”

Marny and Garry have two sons: Stuart (54), a psychotherapist based in Berlin, and Alistair (56), who works for JT Johnson and Sons, a manufacturer and marketer of animal stockfeed across Australia and several Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Their granddaughter is an insurance broker.

Cricket, Tennis, Squash and Football in particular, have been a big part of Garry’s life for almost seventy years. Over that time, he played and /or coached senior football in over 400 games, has

been on Club Committees and League Boards and a Tribunal Member. He continues to be involved with two sports committees in Ballarat.

He spent two years at Federation University in Ballarat, studying Building Design and Technology, as a mature student, in his mid-sixties.

As soon as the Steering Committee received the go ahead to build a Men’s Shed, he thought the best thing to do was to see as many sheds as possible to get ideas for a design that would be most suitable for Lorne. Garry visited eleven Men’s Sheds across Victoria plus a couple in Queensland when on holiday up north. They were all quite different.

Garry really enjoyed the planning stage and working with Tucky, Allan and St John to design an appropriate shed for Lorne. He then spent a lot of time both onsite and at Collen Lewer’s office, finalizing the plan on CAD to present to Council for approval.

Most of the Men’s Sheds Garry visited, did not have a social room but a cupboard and sink in one corner of the Shed. Garry liked the idea of a Social Room, similar to the East Ballarat Men’s Shed, but Colleen tried to convince him it was far too big and impinged on the workshop. Garry ‘stuck to his guns’. That has worked out well, and on some days, it is not big enough!

The Grand Opening was an event that was stunning. The Committee catered for one hundred people, but somewhere between two and three hundred overflowed out of the large roller doors. “It was just such a relief to eventually open and have so much support” he said.

The personalities in the Shed are as wide as they are long. And for such a cross section of men, it was hard to imagine they would all get on so well. The camaraderie and fun in the Shed have been a key feature.

Garry had the greatest admiration for Leo Collins who became a member in his ninetieth year. His wider than wide life experiences made him the number one ‘go to’ man in the Shed. There is a sign on the wall which states, “If Leo can’t fix it, it’s stuffed!” A truer word was never spoken.

Ladies are not involved in the Shed but have been welcomed to several functions. Garry said the Sheddors

certainly appreciated the support from the Op Shop. Garry’s wife, Marny, who taught furniture restoration, was able to assist with the restoration of the historic work bench, the ugly stains on the Board Room table and other bits of restoration advice.

Garry joked he stayed well clear of the coffee machine as he was well aware of his limitations in the kitchen, but he always enjoys the coffee and more so the banter around the table at smoko.

Ed note: Many thanks from the Lorne Independent for Garry’s bios dedicated to his fellow blokes in the Shed. The many characters from the original tradies and craftsmen to the new and old arrivals in town have found a welcome at the Shed. It has continued from before my time as Editor so many men have had their month of fame in the Lorne Independent. Some even buy up multiple copies to give to family members. Garry has been very supportive of the Lorne Independent Newspaper and my editorship and I thank him personally for his help. Anyone wanting to have a permanent record of these mini bios should contact Garry at gfgenton8@gmail.com And buy his book. Garry has organised a succession plan for interviews with Wayne Bishop.

Our contact with this important Lorne institution will continue as a monthly column which will inform the readers of the latest escapades of the Lorne Sheddors. It begins this month and is called Shavings from the Shed. Now we know most of the members we will be interested to see what they are up to each month!!

Country and Waters

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GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH NEWS

LORNE
medical centre

Thank You Lorne Op Shop

A very big thank you to the incredible group of Volunteers and Executive team at Lorne Op Shop for the wonderful community support they offer.

Recently they supported GORH with funds to purchase needed new equipment. We were able to acquire a portable ear suction pump (reducing ear blockages and surfer's ear), dermatoscope device (enhanced visibility for detecting skin cancers non-invasively) and a Vscan portable hand held ultrasound (enables clinicians to easily image patients at the point of care – transforming the physical exam with more information to determine the optimized course of treatment). We are so grateful for the new equipment and funding support! Thank you!

Happy Volunteers Week

In May we celebrated National Volunteers Week. **It takes a village to care for a village and what an incredible village we have.** The selflessness, compassion and tireless dedication of our Volunteers enriches the lives of our patients, aged care residents and community. The impact our Volunteers have on our health service is immeasurable. We are so grateful for your time, efforts and care. **Thank you, for everything you do!**

A special mention to Kristie Walker (10 years) and Ian Denton (15 years) who were awarded certificates celebrating their years of service at the Lorne Volunteers appreciation breakfast, presented by Shelly Pascoe (Director of Community Services) and Joy Dwyer (Volunteer Co-ordinator). Thank you to Bryce and the team at Lorne Central for hosting the breakfast.

GORH Services On Public Holidays

A friendly reminder that the King's Birthday Public Holiday is coming up on **Monday 9th June**.

On public holidays our Community Services team provide essential services only including; nursing, personal care, respite services and meals on wheels. The Lorne Medical Centre is closed.

Our Urgent Care Services will be open 24/7.

Albert Street, Lorne VIC 3232

Phone: (03) 5289 4300

Email: enquiries@gorh.vic.gov.au

www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au

Aged Care Reforms

The aged care sector is preparing for significant change and reform in the coming months. To prepare you for this change we're holding an information sessions on these reforms for any community member or current consumer of GORH who's seeking further information.

The session will cover:

- ◆ What is supported at home
- ◆ Current clients Home Care Packages moving to Support at Home
- ◆ GORH pricing structure changes.

Lorne Neighbourhood House

Friday, June 13th, 11am-12pm – Morning Tea provided.

To RSVP to either of these, please contact Ollie 0447 013 507.

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 May, you give your immune system the best chance to develop protection well ahead of peak flu season, which is usually in July/August. We encourage members of our community to contact our Medical Centres or their GP to book your appointment in 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

EOFY Tax Deduction—Please Donate to the GORH 2024-25 Annual Appeal

This year we are making some well needed infrastructure improvements to our facilities, to continue to provide greater care for our community. **We can't do it alone—we need your help!** We are upgrading equipment, making improvements to patient rooms, conducting necessary building maintenance, expanding our ground floor balcony and reconfiguring the hospital reception and waiting room areas to increase patient capacity, improving security, and roof repairs.

Every dollar makes a difference, so please give what you can and help us.

To learn more visit our website: [Support Us | Great Ocean Road Health](#)

GREEN DROUGHT

By Lou Davies

Banjo Paterson :

“The drought is down on field and flock
The river bed is dry
And we must shift the starving stock,
Before the cattle die “

We live in the best country of the world, but we do have a very harsh climate.

The Bureau of Meteorology records since the 1860's there have been severe droughts once every 18 years. The Federation Drought of 1895 – 1903 was the worst drought in our history. We bought our property at Winchelsea in 2006, during the Millennium Drought, 1997 – 2009.

We are told that in 2019 we experienced our hottest and driest year on record followed by horrendous bush fires.

Please check with local farmers Doug Hopkins, Garry Fenton and John Wilson who will have experienced huge droughts throughout their farming years. We are very much newcomers to the industry! Since the Millennium drought we have had very good years, full dams, green pastures, good lamb numbers and good lamb prices and plenty of water.

But severe droughts have huge impacts on peoples lives and they have side affects on country town populations – the fencers, the supermarkets, the coffee shops etc. It is a domino affect. No farmer likes to see their paddocks bone dry and their animals hungry. Mental health is a huge problem.

So, what is a Green Drought?

A green drought is when there is a slight touch of green grass, but the underlying soil is very dry and not able to sustain substantial growth or fill dams.

The drought at the moment is very serious, affecting most of western Victoria, northern and north Eastern Victoria and most of South Australia. It is at the moment a Green Drought.



How does this affect Lou and Lyn at Narwee in Winchelsea? –our dams are completely empty, so we have to buy in water every fortnight. The paddocks are bone dry, tho' there is a touch of green. There is no feed in the paddocks. We have no hay and thus at great expense we are buying in hay, which is very scarce anyway.

Lyn is very good at managing what we have and managing the rotation of our sheep, so they might get a slight green pick for a day or two.

We only have a small property so the afore mentioned farmers can explain all about droughts from a lot more experience and much larger farms.

Who knows how long this current “Green Drought” will stay green or develop into a much longer drought and going on previous records this could last a few years.

I grew up in the city of Melbourne, so it wasn't until we moved to Winchelsea that I realized how important the weather is to farmers. Country people are reliant on the weather. Weather can be fickle.



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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

GOTTA LOVE THE STRIB *Part 2 By Janet Goud*

During the Christmas holidays the number of happy users of the Stribling Reserve led to a reader sending in a message with the above title, about the daily joy of this happy, busy place full of practising athletes, cricketers, dogs and general mayhem.

Now it is winter, and the mood is more serious. This is where the real business of our country sports grounds takes place. The Game is on, and no one takes it more seriously than the Lorne Dolphins, reigning Premiership team of the Colac District Football League!

I was lucky to be invited into the inner sanctuary of a home match, one glorious sunny Saturday, Dolphins at home and the Pod were in form. My first call was to the newly replaced Netball court which was full of excited girls and families preparing for the next senior games. The bright surface of the courts reflected the mood of the bouncing fit young bodies stretching for the goals. The Netballers are doing very well in their League with some teams taking no prisoners.

Next, I met the Father of Stribling, Pete Spring, who suggested I might like to see some areas normally off limits to the public. I followed him down a corridor and through a room full of machines monitoring the electronic beating heart of this complex building.

Through a door which is off limits to the public, we found ourselves in a stylish box with a perfect view of the ground and the scoreboard. Here is the domain of the scorer and the timer. This is a complex dual task which takes great concentration for each quarter of football. Tony Elder rules here and I felt quite guilty for intruding into this well monitored but elegant part of the complex.

Back to the more familiar meeting / restaurant part of the building we were greeted by Janet Higgins who is the convenor of a select half time group called the Coterie Club. Football Club Members can pay extra to join this group who get two free drinks and footy pies at halftime. They can then watch from the balcony (and drink from the bar, now paying) for the rest of the match. Later still of course they will be joined by the players. And dinner can be ordered. This is also the case with the after-training dinners on Thursday nights, menu issued in



advance, much beloved of Lorne women who have run out of cooking ideas and enjoy a night out on Thursdays throughout the winter months.

Janet Higgins has raised the membership of both the Coterie club and the general Football Netball Club since she has been in the voluntary job. The CEO is another busy woman, Carly Enticott, who works full time at the Lorne Hospital, has two growing children and yet finds time to organise this club. Carly spoke to me about her pride in the growth of the club, and her gratitude for the many helper volunteers who arrive each week to make things run smoothly. She is excited to have the revived netball courts back (although the surface is being monitored for slipperiness) and also excited that the refurbished Stadium will provide lots more variety of Sports Clubs available in town.

On this pretty sunny day, the Stribling oval was ringed with families, on chairs, on the ground, enjoying the teams struggling to get the upper hand. The view to the pier is clear and gorgeous. No wonder the Lorne Ground was rated first of all non AFL football grounds in Victoria. If the view was a criteria, I think it might give the MCG a run for its money! Happily, for Lorne the Dolphins had an easy victory.

Gotta love the Strib!

Insomnia and sleep disorder

Almost all of us will experience trouble sleeping at some stage during our life. However, if you regularly have difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep, you could have insomnia.

What is insomnia?

Insomnia is a sleep disorder characterised by regular episodes of having difficulty falling or staying asleep. This can lead to decreased energy, concentration and focus, poor work performance, low mood, and may also impact your health long-term.

Statistics show that almost 60% of Australians regularly experience at least one symptom of insomnia.

How is insomnia treated?

If symptoms of insomnia last longer than four weeks or poor sleep are negatively impacting your life, you should speak to your doctor. Treatment for sleep insomnia will depend upon what is causing it.

If you or your doctor can't identify any issues that may be causing your sleep disorder, you may require specialist treatment such as cognitive-behavioural therapy. Your doctor may also order a sleep study to check for underlying issues such as sleep apnoea.

What you can do

While it might be tempting to use sleeping tablets to manage sleep insomnia, this approach is not advised as a long-term strategy. Taking sleeping tablets regularly may cause you to become used to them, so they'll be less effective. They can also be habit-forming which will mean that you may find it hard to stop taking them.

Developing good sleep habits (sleep hygiene) is one of the best ways to prevent insomnia and promote good sleep. You should try to:

- Stick to a regular bedtime and wakeup time, including on the weekends
- Get regular physical exercise (but not too close to bedtime as this can act as a stimulant!)
- Avoid or limiting napping during the day
- Avoid or limiting caffeine, alcohol and nicotine
- Avoid eating large meals before bedtime or going to bed on an empty stomach
- Develop a relaxing bedtime routine (e.g. reading, listening to music, or taking a warm bath)
- Avoid electronic devices before bed, as they can interfere with sleep
- Avoid difficult or stressful conversations before bedtime
- Write a 'to-do' list for the next day, before you head to bed
- Take steps to reduce stress and anxiety — you may need specialist help for this
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist whether your medication could be contributing to your poor sleep

If you have any enquires or concerns, please come into TerryWhite Chemmart Lorne and have a chat with our pharmacists. We are here to help.

SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

Dolphins Dominating!

Lorne's senior football team is now on top of the CDFL ladder after consecutive wins over quality opponents. On 10th May Lorne had a resounding win over Irrewarra-Beeac including kicking eight goals in the second quarter. After half time Lorne was able to continue to play very good football and run out winners: 14.13: 97 to 8.14: 62. While most of the scoreboard damage was done in the second quarter, those at the match saw Lorne continue to dominate their opponents until the final siren. Lorne's forward line was well served with the Bright brothers combining for six goals and James Hughes kicking three. Fraser Balderas played possibly his best ever match for the club being a dominant force in the ruck.

On May 17th Lorne took on top team Alvie in cool, damp conditions and were able to stamp their authority on the match right from the start. Lorne was able to open up a lead of twenty-one points at quarter time and held that lead throughout the match.

The final score showed Lorne winning 12.15: 87 to Alvie 7.11:53. Lorne was well served with experienced players Alex Adams and Ed Curnow (3 goals) being among the best.

The win takes Lorne to now be ladder leaders, with the top six teams being: Lorne, 5 wins, Alvie 5 wins, Birregurra 4 wins, Irrewarra-Beeac 4 wins, Colac Imperials 3 wins and South Colac 3 wins.

Lorne now travels away to play Western Eagles to consolidate their top-of-the-ladder status. GO DOLPHINS!

Great Ocean Road Marathon

The Great Ocean Road running festival was held on the weekend 17th & 18th March in Lorne and Apollo Bay. The festival features ten events over different distances, with the most prestigious event being the Marathon from Lorne to Apollo Bay - some 45 km. Three of the runs were sold-out weeks beforehand even though the weather was turning windy and wet.

This year the Marathon was won by Dion Finocchiaro in 2 hours, 34 minutes and 42 seconds. Dion was runner-up last year but improved his time by about five minutes to finish ahead of Sam Toll. The first female was Danielle Rogan in 3 hours, 8 minutes and 55 seconds, ahead of Caitlin Duncan.

Many locals took part in these events, some for the simple pleasure of running on such a scenic road, while for others it is about improving their performance over such a gruelling distance. Well done to all competitors, support crews and organisers.

Women's Golf Club News

The beautiful Autumn weather has seen great matches over consecutive Tuesdays for our members. On April 22, the Monthly Medal was won by Jenni Miller who maintained her strong play of recent weeks. Jan Young was runner up. The following week, 12 players participated in the 18 hole Par competition, with our captain Rose Lloyd claiming victory, just 1 up, and Jenni Miller coming in second, finishing all square. Lou Goldsworthy took out the 9 hole competition, just ahead of Chick Hosking.

The Doris Chambers Foursomes, Club qualifying event, was played on May 6, with the winners going on to compete at Sanctuary Lakes in October. Victors were Linda Brown and Chris Angus on 30 points, who also won NTP. The 9 hole competition was taken out by Helen Worth, with Chick Hosking as runner-up again! The following Tuesday, our Stableford competition was played in perfect conditions. Tina Walker won the 18 hole event on 41 points and Rose Lloyd runner-up with 38. Chris Angus took the prize in the 9 hole competition, with Sue Neill coming second.

Last week we played the qualifying round for the club singles knockout. In a great return to playing, Carol Tutungi was runner-up on 33 and won NTP, with Jan Young continuing her fine form with a winning 36 points. The final four qualifiers now go on to play each other- Jan Young v Janet Higgins and Carol Tutungi v Noela Rollinson. Helen Worth won the 9 hole competition and NTP.

SWGA Golf

On May 12, Noela Rollinson, Jan Young and Chris Angus represented the club at Lara in the Durbridge-Bate Bowl, in a strong field where Winchelsea took first place.

The Pennant season has concluded, with our gallant team finishing equal 5th after 7 great weeks of competition. Highlights of the season include our win against Clifton Springs 3/2, handing them their first loss for the season. The team, over the season, consisted of our passionate and always positive captain Rose Lloyd, Chris Angus, Anne Maree Kennedy, Jan Borwick, Sally Young, Danni De Bon, Sue England and Linda Brown, who stepped in at the last minute to play her first game of pennant competition. In our first season in Division 5, the team members have ensured that we avoided relegation, represented our club with pride and enjoyed great camaraderie and fun!

We are a friendly group of women, across all levels of golfing skills and experience. We love to welcome new or lapsed players to our group. We meet every Tuesday morning at 8.30am. Please contact our president Sue Neill on 0418674062 or Rose Lloyd on 0407860980.

By Janet Higgins

Barwon Water Community Update

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

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

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

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



Lorne: Water, Your Say

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



We're here to help

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



Be waterwise every day

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



ARTS IN LORNE

What's happening at Lorne Community Connect

By Lesley Goldsworthy

Artist In Residence (AIR)

Do you dream of having a space to work and a few weeks out of your normal routine to think, work out new ideas, play with ideas and materials?

Lorne artist Residency could be the answer!

There are several dedicated spaces where there is the opportunity for a creative person to develop or make new work, play with ideas and generally experiment.

But, it's not only visual arts, but it can also incorporate all creatives, for example writers, performing arts, photographers to name a few. The artist also engages with the community via an exhibition, workshop or open studio which



is a way to support artists and connect them with people.

Bhanu Mistry was our recent AIR. While most creative people would take up the residency to have "time out", Bhanu's approach was to work on site in our Gallery Space in her exhibition of freeform miniature needlepoints and tapestries, so viewers could talk to her about her materials and methods, gaining more clients for her work.

If you are interested in our AIR program, information is available on our website

lornecommunityconnect.com.au or email lornecommunityconnect@gmail.com

Please contact us if you are interested in joining our weekly activities of patchwork, knitting, quilting, art group or bridge.

Spaces are available for hire, please see our website for further details.

Dear Supporters of Lorne Sculpture

With Lorne Sculpture 2025 now behind us and all the post event work such as site clean up, grant acquittals, payment of invoices and celebration behind us, it is time to start planning for the future.

In April we held a community meeting with Lorne Sculpture donors to discuss how we proceed with planning for LSB 2027. It was a good discussion highlighting some of the challenges we faced with LSB 2025 and how these will impact planning for LSB 2027. At the end of the meeting a number of actions were agreed to explore the format and funding for our next Biennale as well as the recruiting of sufficient human resources to do the planning and organisation of the event. Stay tuned for more news about this in a couple of months.

With the wrap up of the event, it is now time to prepare our accounts for financial year 2025 and form our new committee for LSB 2027. As some of you may know I will finish my 5 year term as President at the 2025 AGM which we expect to hold in July. Phil Rounsevell will also step down as Treasurer.

Like you, I love the Lorne Sculpture Biennale. It is a wonderful event for Lorne as it brings so much joy to the township, visitors and artists. It is my hope that it will continue to flourish into the future. However, there are significant challenges to its sustainability, and they are mainly to do with the human resources to organise the event as well as securing the necessary funding. If you or your friends would like to join the organising committee for LSB 2027, now is the time to get in touch. The current committee members and myself are available to provide information or assistance required during the transition to the new committee.

Many thanks for your wonderful support during my time as President. I have found it a very rewarding and enjoyable activity.

Warm regards, Andrew Stobart
president@lornesculpture.com



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LORNE

SEASIDE 63

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This spacious three-level beachside property features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and open plan living. The ground floor includes a queen bedroom, a large bedroom with three single beds, a full bathroom, laundry, and access to a sunny courtyard. The second level offers light-filled open living with a fully equipped kitchen, dining for eight, powder room, front and rear decks (with ocean views and auto awnings), and a fireplace.

The top floor is a private master suite with ensuite, queen bed, and balcony with sweeping ocean views. A hot/cold outdoor shower is located near the front entrance for post-beach rinses.

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From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

WHAT USEFUL THINGS ARE HIDING IN YOUR CUPBOARD?

By Liz Brown Local Vet

As the price of veterinary help escalates it's time for us to start taking our pets' health into our own hands. All those old fashioned remedies are coming to the fore again and the best remedy of all, time, has once again become precious and worth waiting for.

Recently I studied a short course in western herbal remedies for animals and I was contemplating further study. My upper arm started itching so I rummaged around in the bathroom cupboard and found some ancient local anaesthetic gel to apply to the area. It did nothing. Then I remembered a cream I had created that had calendula tea, chamomile tea and lavender essence in it. I applied a wee smear, went on my merry way and suddenly noticed the infernal itch had gone. Maybe these herbal remedies really do work.

Chamomile tea is so easy to access and has so many uses. Conjunctivitis with red itching eyes responds well to a cool soaked bag of Chamomile tea. Maybe the more organic the bags are the better, but they all seem to work well as long as you're prepared to use them consistently over 2-3 days. If there is no improvement or your pet has trouble opening their eyes, especially in bright lights, then that's a veterinary visit.

Many acute injuries are painful and some sort of anti inflammatory is necessary. Most of us have panadol in our medicine cabinets. These days the specialist vets are often sending their patients home on panadol as it is less toxic to kidneys and guts than NSAIDs like meloxicam. A safe dose would be half a 500mg tablet twice a day for a kelpie or border collie.

Open wounds can be cleaned out with most of your antiseptics such as savlon, betidine, ti tree oil and Epsom salts. Epsom salt baths are great for drawing infection out of wounds and relaxing tired muscles and ligaments. Once clean, wound healing can be enhanced with calendula cream or you could make a calendula tea and use that as your final rinse. Lavender has a local anaesthetic action when used topically in dilute doses which may be useful in preventing your pet from licking and biting at the wound site. If you're going to dress the area a sock stuck on with a bit of sticky tape would be better than a tight bandage. Pets sweat from their feet so it may be necessary to change the dressing daily or every second day.

Chamomile comes in to it's own again when it comes to upset bowels. Not only is it calmative it has also been found to be soothing to the gut lining. If your dog has a bout of gastroenteritis stop feeding it dry food and make up a chicken and pumpkin mix to which you've added a spoonful of chamomile tea: a teaspoon for the chihuahua, a dessertspoon for the kelpie and a tablespoon for the labrador 3 times a day. Unfortunately for cat's chamomile tea is not recommended, orally, as it may interfere with their blood clotting cascade. Other herbs that are easy to lay your hands on for gut problems include slippery elm and marshmallow root. Although the second of these may not be that easy to find.

Hopefully as my knowledge base grows, I'll be able to add to yours and together we can help to improve our pets' health without draining our bank accounts.

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COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN BY MIKE

By Mayor Michael Bodsworth

I'm excited to be contributing to the Independent for the first time, starting with some personal Lorne reflections.

I grew up on the Bellarine Peninsula. In the 70's and 80's, we'd drive to Lorne regularly, stopping at St George River or the pier to fish for mullet and salmon. If we saw fresh ink stains on the pier, we'd try for calamari.

My teenage years were the final years of Lorne's cotta fleet, the working pier, and the fishermen's co-op.

After time living away, I took up a job with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, working between Torquay and Lorne.

I have fond memories of my time at GORCC. The Tramway Track project was a highlight, sitting with Doug hearing stories and choosing photos from the Historical Society collection. We worked together on signs for the stub of the old pier too. I got to know future Council colleagues Gary Allen and Leon Walker during that time.

Lorne is an amazing place. The natural and social appeal that drew guesthouse visitors a century ago still draws lovers of nature, grand landscapes and conviviality today. I'm happy to be able to speak up, as a councillor, for authenticity, 'slow and appreciative' tourism and the value and viability of Lorne's unique character, economy and lifestyle.

Congratulations to Lorne's own Surf Coast Shire 'Local Legends'. It was inspiring to meet 15 individual and four group recipients of Council's 2025 Local Legends Awards during a ceremony in the Council Chambers for National Volunteer Week.

From Lorne, Heath Armstrong received a Community Commitment Award, while the Lorne Volunteering Ladies Group were recognised with a Group Volunteer Excellence Award.

The Volunteering Ladies give their time to multiple groups and clubs in the town, with their work at the op shop raising nearly a million dollars, for re-investment in the local community, over five years.

Congratulations and thanks to June Adams, Jenny Cerins, Marilyn MacKenzie, Karen Ridgeway, Clare Russell, Jan Spring, June Stafford, Valinda Gale-Peart, Suzanne Neill, Helen Worth and Jill Chapman!

Heath has provided outstanding leadership as president of Lorne SLSC for the past two years.

Heath's efforts to bring culturally diverse groups to Lorne to learn about beach safety got a special mention. I hope Heath and everyone involved at the Club feels proud of the award.

Council's annual budget

Council's annual budget sets out the services and projects we'll be funding in the year ahead, as we aim to support the local community and our Surf Coast region to thrive.

We've recently released our draft 2025-26 budget for your feedback. (see following page)

In a challenging economic climate, we're aiming to be financially responsible, while continuing to invest in important community facilities and the services people love and rely on. The draft budget features a record capital works allocation of \$64.25 million, with investment in roads and pathways, new and renewed community buildings, facilities and open spaces. Funded capital projects in our local Otway Range ward include an upgrade of the Lorne Transfer Station, replacement of a section of the boundary fence at Lorne's Stribling Reserve, and renewal of several of the unsealed roads around Anglesea and Aireys Inlet in particular.

Other funding allocations in the draft budget include:

- \$50,000 in support for the 2025 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships cycling event in Lorne this October;
- A further \$160,000 for our multi-year 'Branching Out' urban tree planting program, which will begin in Deans Marsh via a partnership project with the Deans Marsh Streetscapers;
- A \$64,600 contribution to Life Saving Victoria towards professional lifeguard services for our Surf Coast beaches; and
- \$87,000 for Christmas decorations and activations.

Of course, that's just a brief snapshot of a very large document. For more information and to provide your feedback, please visit yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget25-26.

Submissions will close at 10am on Monday 26 May. We'll then review all feedback before considering adopting a final 2025-26 Budget during our June Council meeting.

Looking ahead to our four-year Council Plan

2025-26 Budget is the final budget under the existing Council Plan, which was adopted by the previous Council in 2021. We are working towards a new four-year plan, which will give us a new set of strategic priorities for the current Council term.

These priorities will in turn influence the decisions we make over the next four years, including our future budgets.

The process to develop a new Council Plan has been heavily shaped by the community's input.

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A survey between November and February generated more than 1000 responses, which gave us a terrific insight into what the community values and believes the Council should focus on.

A community panel featuring a representative sample of people from across the shire then spent three-and-a-half days developing a set of principles, based on the question:

How can Council balance the priorities of our community and meet legislative obligations, whilst remaining in a financially sustainable position?

Their final report featured eight principles to assist with council decision making, plus two minority reports:

1. Community engagement
2. Financial sustainability
3. Community equity
4. Environmental impact
5. Meeting out future needs
6. Health and wellbeing
7. Building trust through transparency
8. Environmental leadership

Minority reports

- The unique needs of young people
- Fabric of our townships

The survey findings and the panel's report have been delivered to councillors to consider, and are also available for everyone to read on Council's website: yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture

Councillors are now working together to develop a draft Council Plan for the community's feedback, which will aim to take into account everything we've heard from the community.

We expect to consider releasing this during our June Council meeting.

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DRAFT 2025-26 COUNCIL BUDGET AND DRAFT 2025-29 REVENUE AND RATING PLAN AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Surf Coast Shire Council has released its Draft 2025-26 Budget and Draft 2025-29 Revenue and Rating Plan for community feedback.

The draft budget aims to balance financial sustainability with continued investment in important community facilities and services.

It features a forecast result (Unallocated Cash Surplus) of \$2.2 million, and a record capital works program to deliver new and renewed assets.

The proposed total capital works budget of \$64.25 million includes planned multi-year projects worth \$49.14 million such as the Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre, hockey pitch at Banyul Warri Fields, and Karaaf Diversion project, along with new projects valued at \$15.11 million.

There is strong focus and investment in roads and pathways, alongside new and renewed community buildings, facilities and open spaces.

Highlights of the proposed new capital allocation include:

- A major irrigation and drainage upgrade to the oval at Spring Creek Recreation Reserve, Torquay (\$2.55 million);
- upgrade of Gladman Street, Winchelsea to become a sealed road (\$757,064);
- unsealed road renewals on Bambra-Aireys Inlet Road (\$386,000), Eagle Rock Parade in Aireys Inlet (\$97,000) and Pettavel Road in Freshwater Creek (\$152,000); and
- renewal of Cape Otway Road from Dysons Lane to Parish Lane, near Moriac (\$200,000)

The draft budget also details the Council's commitments to core services such as open space, civil and road maintenance (with a total budget of more than \$14.3 million), waste and recycling services (\$13.06 million), early years (\$4.53 million), and local libraries (\$850,500 contribution to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation).

Specific initiatives have been funded to help protect and enhance the natural environment, generate economic activity, support community-led projects, and keep the community safe.

These include:

- \$160,000 for year two of the 'Branching Out' urban tree planting program;
- \$148,600 for community grants;
- \$87,000 for Christmas decorations and activations; and
- \$64,600 to Life Saving Victoria towards lifeguards on Surf Coast beaches.

The draft budget factors in a total average rate rise of 3 per cent, which is in line with the Victorian Government's cap.

Mayor Mike Bodsworth encouraged the community to read the budget and have its say.

"The budget is a document full of numbers but it's about much more than numbers – it's about the lives of the people in our shire," Mayor Bodsworth said.

"It sets out how and where we'll invest to support our community and see this region thrive in the years ahead.

"This budget achieves a strong balance between financial sustainability and investment in facilities and services our community values highly.

"There's something in it for everyone – I encourage the community to visit our website, read the document and provide your feedback."

It is the final budget under the 2021-2025 Council Plan, and will transition Council into a new four-year plan set to feature a refreshed set of strategic priorities.

Submissions are now open via yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget25-26 and will close at 10am on Monday 26 May.

Draft Budget Snapshot – Key Details, Facts and Figures

Budgeted result (Unallocated Cash Surplus/Deficit):

We are budgeting for a \$2.2 million Unallocated Cash Surplus.

Surpluses in 2024-25 and 2025-26 will prepare the Council for future years where continued rising costs and asset renewal requirements are expected to create an increasingly challenging financial environment.

Services:

Budget allocations for key services we will deliver to the community include:

- Open space, roads and civil infrastructure, and facilities maintenance: \$14.38 million
- Waste management and resource recovery: \$13.06 million
- Early years (kindergartens and occasional care): \$4.53 million
- Community safety: \$4.37 million
- Tourism support: \$1.75 million
- Children and families support: \$980,000
- Environment protection and care: \$981,000
- Arts and creative economy support: \$787,000
- Economic development support: \$729,000

Continued page 26

From page 25**Capital works budget:**

- Total: \$64.25 million (a record)
- New projects: \$15.11 million
- Planned multi-year projects continuing: \$49.14 million

Capital works expenditure by category:

- Buildings: \$31.9 million
- Infrastructure (including bridges, drainage, roads, footpaths, parks and open spaces): \$28.8 million
- Plant and equipment: \$3.5 million

Assets:**Asset renewal budget by category:**

- Sealed Road reseal program: \$1.6 million
- Hard court renewal: \$600,000
- Building renewal: \$800,000
- Playground equipment renewal: \$300,000
- Footpath renewal: \$255,000
- Drainage renewal: \$150,000
- Other shire wide renewal (e.g. active play, bike parks, bridges, skate parks and signage): \$530,000

By the end of the 2025-26 financial year, Council will be responsible for the upkeep of \$1.38 billion in property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Our annual asset renewal costs are expected to double over the next 10 years, from just over \$10 million now to more than \$21 million by 2034-35.

Other funding allocations of note:

- Contribution to Geelong Regional Library Corporation (Council Service): \$850,500
- Christmas decorations and activations: \$87,000
- 'Branching Out' urban tree planting program: \$160,000
- Contribution to Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism: \$152,813
- Small Grants Program: \$148,600
- Event Support: \$85,500
- Tourism - Rip Curl Pro: \$70,000
- Life Saving Victoria contribution towards professional lifeguard service: \$64,600
- Support to Community Houses: \$31,700
- Tourism - sponsored events: \$25,000
- Surf Coast Arts Trail: \$24,740
- Tourism - signature events: \$18,000
- Arts Grant Program: \$16,000
- ANZAC Day support: \$15,000
- Winchelsea Place Plan: \$80,000
- Winchelsea Pool: \$119,155 (operating costs for a season spanning 1 December 2025 to 9 March 2026)

Total average rate rise:

Rates are Council's largest revenue source. The proposed total average rate rise of 3 per cent, which is in line with Victorian Government cap, will help us cover the rising cost of delivering our services and projects.

Waste Service Charge:**The proposed charges for 2025-26 are:**

- Urban waste service charge: \$515
- Rural waste service charge: \$489

The waste service charge covers the rising costs of kerbside collections, waste disposal and recyclable material processing, public litter management, and the operation of Council's resource recovery centres and the Anglesea landfill.

The figure has been impacted for 2025-26 by a 28 per cent increase in the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria waste levy. This money is collected by the Victorian Government.

Council is progressively aligning the Urban and Rural waste services charges over the next three years, which is why the Rural charge is proposed to increase more than the Urban charge.

Hardship:

Council's Hardship Policy is in place to support ratepayers experiencing financial pressures.

Those experiencing hardship are encouraged to reach out for a confidential discussion by calling 03 5261 0600.

More information: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/paymenthelp.

Fees and charges:

Fees and charges have been reviewed with consideration of service costs, market competitors and local government benchmarking.

All fees and charges have been listed in the draft budget for the community's review. Fees and charges frozen at 2024-25 levels include:

- Australian National Surfing Museum entry fees
- Replacement kitchen caddy for FOGO material
- Statutory Planning advertising of applications and subsequent letters

Areas with highest increases, updated to reflect actual costs to Council and heavily impacted by an increase in the EPA Victoria waste levy, include:

- Upgrades to larger or additional kerbside bins
- Disposal of waste materials including truck and 4WD tyres, mattresses, commercial garbage and construction/demolition waste

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From page 26

Proposed new fees and charges include:

- Electric vehicle charging and idle fee, Civic Centre EV chargers in Torquay: \$0.20/kWh charging fee, \$1 per minute idle fee. (Previously no fee for these chargers.)
- Place of Public Entertainment – Commercial Event permits: fees varying based on number of attendees.

Borrowings:

Debt levels remain manageable and well within our Borrowings Policy.

We are budgeting for no new borrowings in 2025-26 and will pay down around \$2.2 million of debt, reducing total borrowings from \$10.4 million to \$8.2 million by the end of the 2025-26 financial year.

Financial sustainability and efficiency:

Council's business reform programs have identified \$320,000 in operational savings, which have been incorporated into this budget and will assist the Council's ongoing financial sustainability.

Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29:

The Revenue and Rating Plan determines the most appropriate, equitable and affordable revenue and rating approaches for Surf Coast Shire Council to apply.

The Draft 2025-2029 Revenue and Rating Plan proposes to continue using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology and a Differential rating strategy.

It is proposed to continue using three types of rates, with a different 'level of rate' for each rating type:

- General rate land (level of rate: 100 per cent)
- Farm rate land (75 per cent); and
- Commercial/industrial rate land (190 per cent)

This is in addition to a municipal charge and relevant service charge applied to all properties.

The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan is available for community feedback alongside the Draft Budget.

How to make a submission:

Online: yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget25-26

Write to:

Chief Executive Officer Surf Coast Shire Council PO Box 350 Torquay Vic 3228

Submissions must be received by 10am on Monday 26 May 2025.

Anyone making a submission can request to present to Council at a hearing of submissions, which will take place online at 6pm on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Those who would prefer to view a printed copy of the draft budget can find one at:

- Anglesea Community House: 5 McMillan Street
- Council office in Torquay: 1 Merrijig Drive
- Lorne Visitor Information Centre: 15 Mountjoy Parade
- Winchelsea Shire Hall: 28 Hesse Street

Community members can also call 5261 0600 to arrange a relevant section posted.

Key dates

- 30 April 2025: Draft 2025-26 Budget and Draft 2025-29 Revenue and Rating plan open for community feedback.
- 26 May 2025: Submissions close at 10am
- 3 June 2025: Online hearing of submissions at 6pm (if required)
- 24 June 2025: Council to consider adopting finalised 2025-26 Budget and 2025-29 Revenue and Rating Plan

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A SHOUT OUT FOR OUR AGED CARE WORKERS

By Ray Sutton

Do we place enough value on the important jobs which are critical to building healthy and strong communities and a society which values more than just economic well-being?

It seems to me we could shift the dial a bit to give greater recognition and reward to those whose jobs are critical to a socially cohesive, healthy, happy society, as well an economically sound one.

Those who look after us when we have an accident or become sick (nurses and paramedics), those who educate and help develop our young people (early childhood workers and teachers), those who care for our elderly loved ones in their final years (aged care workers and nurses).

A quick google comes up with the following two bits of information:

"In Australia, a "good" average salary is subjective and depends on individual circumstances, location, and lifestyle, but many consider a six-figure salary (around \$120,000 AUD per year) to be a decent benchmark. However, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reports the average annual salary for full-time workers is slightly over

\$100,000. The median salary is lower, around \$88,000."

".....the average annual salary for an aged care worker ranges from \$54,000 to \$66,000. Hourly rates can range from \$28 to \$35. Entry-level positions start at around \$54,000 per year, while more experienced workers can earn up to \$75,000 annually."

The Fair Work Commission has recently recognised that aged care workers are undervalued and awarded increase between 2.3% and 13.5%.

This will increase the top pay level to around \$85,000 still under the median for all workers.

The average teacher salary in Australia is around the median of \$88,000 and the average salary for registered nurses is only \$1000 more than this.

Putting aside all the challenges these workers face such as poor resourcing, patient/student/parent aggression and so on, surely the important contributions these jobs make to our society should be recognised with better remuneration.

It is not within my power to change this, but I can express my gratitude and give recognition to those I have dealt with locally.

We are so lucky to have an aged care facility with a dedicated team of nurses and aged care workers (not to mention administrative staff and volunteers) providing high quality care to those in their final years, as we are to have such dedicated professionals looking after our children's education and development.

With personal experience of more than one aged care facility in Melbourne I cannot speak highly enough about the loving care given to my mother over recent years and our family will be forever grateful for the positive experiences she had in her final years in Lorne.

THANK YOU.

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TRAVEL WARDROBES

By Renae Forsyth

By this time of year many of our Lorne regulars are packing up for holidays further afield. A change of scene opens your senses and for the curious brings knowledge and rich experiences.

One gains perspective and with that appreciation for life wherever it takes place.

For some planning a trip is a great joy. With an agenda scripted by the hour, accommodation transfers, meals and activities mapped out in exciting new places. Perhaps it is returning to a favourite place and taking a good book, a surfboard and dining simply that brings relaxation to you.

Whatever your destination or agenda having the appropriate wardrobe is going to help enormously for your comfort and ease while on tour. As a good friend said to me while walking through Edinburgh in the rain. 'There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothes'

Being in a new place can be daunting, so doing research before you go can be really helpful in understanding an area and getting a preview of the neighbourhood including fashion to put you at ease.

Check the weather of your destinations and consider your specific itinerary. If a packing list is provided by your tour organisers consider it wisely. They want you to be comfortable.

Packing for travel is about creating different outfits with minimal items of clothing. Selecting pieces that go together and can be dressed up or down is a good criterion. Introducing a colour theme helps enormously at this stage. Do you remember the milky beige, soft tan and browns Kristin Scott Thomas wore in "The English Patient" as she travelled through Africa?

Allow yourself more than a week before departure and lay out all your pieces, try them on checking for fit and comfort. Light layering your outfits in your colour story is creative and economical for those going between seasons. Create your outfit combinations considering shoes, bags, scarves, hats and jewellery. If there is a special item you have purchased for the trip, have fun and make it the inspiration for your travel packing.

I recall on a trip to Paris some 8 years ago it was a soft blue, navy, grey, black and white combination that worked well for an early Spring capsule wardrobe. We loved seeing the colours together in Picasso's palette and there we had our retrospective theme.



On shoes: looks, comfort and versatility are all important. A stylish sneaker is a must have for most destinations and seasons. Worn for the morning exercise with activewear, to sightseeing in a day dress, to dining out paired with a wide leg trouser and jacket they are comfortable and fresh. If you aren't a sneaker person a loafer or brogue suffice in many ensembles. Select shoes that will match with your entire packed wardrobe. To reduce luggage weight I try to wear the bulkier shoes for transit and pack the lighter shoes where possible.

Scarves provide warmth, shade, cover and change up an outfit, especially if you are going through a few climates on your trip. Hats that fold and pack make

great companions, but if its a classic straw don't despair, pack your small clothes around it and keep it in your carry on. Jewellery finishes off an outfit and when on holidays we want to look our best. Keep jewellery of value in your carry-on luggage and consider a travel pouch to keep it organised. Make sure any valuable pieces are insured. A very stylish friend who was spending time on board a boat in Greece decided to leave her heirlooms at home and brought together a stunning substitute less precious collection of bling which still looked great.

The Characters of "The White Lotus" were so well portrayed with their clothes and accessories.

The warmth of Thailand and the seclusion of the resort saw armfuls of bangles and glimmering dresses. Have a good chat with your travel buddies, synchronise your wardrobes and complement your looks. You will be experiencing new sights, dining out and spending time together. Being on the same page with your wardrobe makes for smooth sailing.

There are many ways of approaching the packing of a suitcase. Do you fold or roll your items?

I suggest starting with folding freshly washed and ironed pieces, so they remain looking fresh and filling gaps with rolled smaller items. Use protective bags over shoes and use every bit of space.

A handheld clothes steamer is a good consideration when travelling. The steaming process freshens the fabric and takes out the wrinkles, so much so that frequent laundering is not necessary. Make sure you have your electrical adapter on hand. There are universal ones available.

Whether it's a weekend away in Victoria, a trip within beautiful Australia or a journey offshore, with research done, colour theme picked, pack your bags and enjoy your travel!

WHEN TIME IS CRITICAL AND BEHAVIORS MATTER

By Chris Jones

Recently, we have attended several Priority I requests for assistance. In this instance, our vehicles are driven with lights and sirens operating.

Our crew is responding to a time-critical incident with an immediate threat to life, or we must take control of a scene and/or provide specialist skills. Unfortunately, our response times have been significantly impacted by vehicles failing to give way or slow down for our SES Emergency Response Vehicles.

People sometimes fail to give way or slow down for emergency vehicles due to a combination of factors, including distraction, a lack of awareness, panic, or a misunderstanding of the rules. Some individuals may not realise they should prioritise emergency vehicles, especially if they do not correctly follow the road rules or concentrate on driving. Additionally, some may be unsure of the correct procedures, leading to confusion or indecision. There is also a minority of drivers who have a mindset and attitude of entitlement. Here's a more detailed explanation:

1. Distraction and Lack of Awareness:

• Distracted Driving:

Mobile phone use, eating, or simply not paying attention to the road can prevent drivers from noticing emergency vehicles approaching.

• Not Checking Mirrors:

Failing to check mirrors regularly can prevent drivers from seeing emergency vehicles approaching from behind.

2. Panic and Misunderstanding:

• Fear of Braking:

Some drivers may hesitate to slow down or stop, fearing they will cause an accident or delay the emergency vehicle.

• Conflicting Road Rules:

Some drivers may not fully understand the road rules around emergency vehicles, leading to confusion about when and how to give way.

3. Lack of Education and Enforcement:

• Not Understanding Priorities:

Some drivers may not fully grasp the importance of emergency vehicles and the need to prioritise them.

• Limited Enforcement:

Enforcement of these rules can be inconsistent, leading to some drivers not taking the rules seriously.



4. Individual Factors:

• Personal Distractions:

Some drivers may be experiencing personal issues or be overly focused on something other than driving.

• Driving Experience:

Drivers with less experience may be less familiar with the rules and procedures around emergency vehicles.

5. Environmental Factors:

• Traffic Conditions:

Heavy traffic or complex intersections can make it difficult to give way to emergency vehicles, especially if they have little manoeuvrable space.

• Visibility:

Poor visibility due to weather or other factors can make it harder to see emergency vehicles.

6. Entitlement

• Mindset and Attitude:

A mindset of attitude exists where the driver believes they deserve special treatment without considering the rights/needs of others or road rules.

The reasons for failing to give way to emergency vehicles are complex and multifaceted, ranging from simple distraction to a lack of understanding of the rules and individual factors. Drivers must be aware of the road rules, pay attention to their surroundings, and prioritise the safety of our SES Lorne Unit Emergency First Responders.



From the Deck

THE CO-OP AND THE LAAC

By John Agar

It is time that the heat is turned down in the debate, the furore, the divisive poison that has infested Point Grey.

While I care about the retention of the LAAC, fret over the car-parking and boat wash issues, see little point in a sea wall, and recognise that there are many debates swirling about at the Point Grey site, as the outcome for the Co-Op has stirred the greatest emotion, I have chosen it to be the focus for this piece. While I have long-loved the old Co-Op building, it is time to confront the facts—or what we are being told are facts.

Now past my 79th birthday, I can lock away more than 70 years of personal memories into the building and its impact on Lorne and Lorne's families. As the great nephew of Howard Hitchcock—the progenitor of the Great Ocean Road—and with my grandmother and mother both Lorne locals since 1915, I feel I have some skin in the game.

I cut my love-of-Lorne teeth as a pre-pre-teen when I cast [or tangled] my hand-line in hope from the lower deck before fleeing the rising tide.

As a pre-teen, I recall the impossibly early morning starts that found me being lowered by crane and, Hemingway-esque, putt-putting with Cyril Norton, my real-life, snowy-haired Old Man of the Sea, towards an ever-receding line where the sea meets the sky to fish for couta.

Along with many, I mourn what seems the inevitable demise of the Co-Op ... a practical building, but one never intended to outlive the Parthenon, the pyramids of Egypt, the Roman aqueducts, or the neolithic village of Skara Brae on Orkney. Indeed, built for its time and not for antiquity, the Co-Op was uniquely suited to purpose, a role it played faithfully and well till the end of Lorne's fishing decades but, as sad as it may be, we are told those years are done.

It is inevitable that most coastal buildings die, especially those exposed to the elements—perhaps with the exception of Scottish castles and crofts made of feet-thick bluestone basalt. Built with brick and mortar, the Co-Op was never meant one of these few exceptions. Built with construction techniques consonant with post-WWII practice, the building has now sadly passed its prime.

GORCAPA claims that the old girl has problematic asbestos. However, in the engineers report there is: "... no internal damaged or exposed friable asbestos, requiring immediate remedial strategies; no internal sealed or enclosed friable asbestos requiring short term, medium, or long-term strategies; with only small and manageable quantities of external asbestos". GORCAPA also claims rusting iron

struts, crumbling plasterwork, and deteriorating mortar though the extent, severity, and irreversibility of these defects is hotly debated by the many local friends of the Co-Op. My lack of engineering credentials disqualifies me from expressing an opinion either way.

I feel for the bitterness and pain of those whose occupation permits have expired—though they knew it would always be so. The Lorne Historical Society and the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club have both used the old building ... the LHS for temporary exhibits and the LAAC for storage ... and face the short-term inconvenience of storage relocation into containers provided and facilitated by Lorne's #1 *bête noir*, GORCAPA. It's a lifeline if only a tenuous one.

I also find little joy in GORCAPA—a divisive and tone-deaf Quango [Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation]. It, the responsible minister, and the state government should all be condemned for their collectively inept mismanagement of the Point Grey project. Many in this town rue the day that the government legislated its authoritarian stamp on our once happy coast and licensed an unelected group of Spring Street appointees to ride roughshod over our community representatives.

But ... back to the Co-Op. While the old girl's days seem done—though many still believe a sensitive renovation is possible—if it must go, for a moment let us reimagine it.

Imagine it could be re-built, its exterior lovingly crafted to echo local memories of its past while inside, a cosy coffee venue contiguous with an imaginative 21stC display featuring touch-screen historical informatives that speak of the sundering of Gondwanaland, the ever-rising sea, the flooding of the Tasmanian land bridge, the custodial care of the Gadubanud, and holographic displays of the early days on the pier with its timber, fishing, and later tourism industries. Imagine a small theatrette featuring holographic displays of a steamer arriving, a fishing boat being lowered by crane, or great logs tumbling into the hold of a by-the-sail ketch. Consider artistic 'cartoons' ... take as an example: 'The Little Boy and the Seven Grandfathers', an utterly captivating continuously looping video at the Smithsonian Museum of the Native American [<https://tinyurl.com/5n7u5599>] ... that would bring the building's interior alive by depicting scenes of our First Peoples catching fish and eels, feasting, and telling stories around a midden.

I, too, care for all this ... and more. Yet fighting a rear-guard action is, in the end, counterproductive. It may be better to proactively mould, direct, and steer a reconstructed Co-Op into the future by honouring its past with thoughtful new ideas.

CLEMENTINE CALLING

It's not just those amazing Mermaids who will keep on swimming even through the cold weather! Hooray for The Frozen Few! They are a small group of very athletic, middle-aged, wet suit clad enthusiasts, who daily, at 8am, splash into the sea and swim from the Life Saving Club towards the pier and back again! Mind you they don't all swim that far. To get there in time Sam Johnston rises early from his parents' home way above Cinema Point. Their home is an elegant house designed by the award-winning architect Kerstin Thompson. Other participants are Michael and Sally Syme. Chris and Bindy Langdon join in when in town – Their son Ed Langdon is the eminent AFL footballer playing for Melbourne. Slender, tall Sophie Chandler who paints and who now has a new dog is another member. The athletic Leon Buchanan is . Diana swims without a wet suit on her own). Sarah Cameron, who is an architect and her writer husband Anson and Peter Bund swim along beside the others. Makes me exhausted just to think of them all swimming that distance regularly!! And they all look so good. i am green with envy.

The boys from Sam I Am have a gorgeous new toy. It's a brand new red excavator complete with a boom dipper, bucket and rotating platform. They are as proud as punch of it and drove it down from Sydney on the back of one of their trucks!!

We have a fairly new postie, Ricky Supta. Ten years ago, he came all the way from the Punjab to live in Australia. Now he comes from Geelong to look after us in the Post Office. He is kind and helpful to us all. Thankyou Ricky!

Something strange was poking out of the grass down in the Lions Club Picnic area. It was rusty brown in colour and turned out to be the Bardi Grub pupae case. That meant that an enormous Rainbow Moth had emerged after living underground for some years. These moths emerge after rain. By the way, it won't land on your place as they only live for one day!!

Some Lornies are on the move. It's that time of the year when people start disappearing. Some go abroad. Stephen and Janet Agg are just back from India and Nepal – they were stunned by the Taj Mahal – reckon it is beyond belief in beauty. Graeme Wilkie will be spending an amazing time in China where he will be working in the world of porcelain. Having developed a studio in China last year, he is looking forward to going back. Mandy and Linton Feguson have been in America where they have family. The keen gardener Jan Metz had an exotic time in Costa Rica. Bill and Eva Youll have been living it up in the Spanish resort town of Roses and then on to spend time with Phillippe who they met in Lorne, in a house built by his grandfather just outside Nice. Then they enjoyed the spectacular scenery on the Bernina Express in Switzerland. Lucky them!! Sue Grant is on a cruise in Italy but missing her new home and her dog.

Some of us travelled within Australia. Paula and John Hayden had two weeks in Noosa but unfortunately Paula contracted Covid for the fourth time. Sandy Day has been spending more time in Adelaide these days. Elisabeth and Peter Crow were off to the rugged weathered peaks of the Flinders Ranges. Lesley and Clive Goldsworthy spent some delightful days in Merrijig in the house of John Agar's son, with views of Mt Buffalo and the Delatite River.

The Council gave approval for every tree bar one to be taken down on a new building block at 87 George Street. Even the trees on Council land were marked with a large red cross for demolition. We have always been a town where the trees meet the sea – sadly the new buildings that are being erected are too large for the blocks and necessitate the removing of indigenous trees. Another house under construction at 5 George Street has 8 bathrooms. I'm glad I don't have to clean them!! No native trees in sight. What is the Council doing to Lorne?. It's a shame.

When the sun was shining in early May, warm hearted and generous Luke Morgan gave a group of Gardening Lornies the most scrumptious lunch. He made a seafood bisque full of floating pieces of yummy fresh fish, followed by home-made wraps and then everyone swooned over a slice of his exquisite lemon tart. So much hard yacker has gone into the extensive and beautiful garden he has made out on the Mount Sabine Road with its rolling lawns and exotic trees. It is a joy to wander in this special garden. Well-known local Ralph de Bon and family live on the block next door, with a view to Winchelsea.

It's a joy to see old friends Di Watson and Avril Greenfield walking together down on the seafront. Clementine remembers well Di's father, the builder Byron Moore – he was a good chap. Di's delightful daughter Hilary works in the supermarket and many of us are strenuously put to the test by Avril and Trevor's energetic and sprightly daughter Emily who works for Allied Health!

Clementine loves to meet Jason Widdop in the bush -He always shows her photographs of the latest birds he has seen, and they swap information. Lately it has been the butcher birds and the emu wrens. Flocks of emu wrens can be seen in the bush above the Slaughterhouse Field. They are small pale reddish-brown birds with the males having a blue throat and long tails which look like a lacy fan. Jason is clever at finding plant fossils from the Jurassic Period mainly conifers cycads, ferns and ginkgoes.

A special Requiem was held for two esteemed gentlemen of Italian stock - Joe Ragusa and George Basinella. Hugs to their darlings. Another end of an era is marked by the selling of the Valessi home on Deans Marsh Road. We remember handsome Emilio who became a painter after having run a restaurant. Many of us enjoyed Cessies cooking which always included Emillio's home grown vegies!



Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



Club News

The weather couldn't get any better. We've just had one of the best summers ever and now the same with the Autumn. Rain is needed badly but if it's not going to rain it may as well be like this.

We are very lucky here in Lorne with our magnificent water catchment and storage. Our Allen Dam is currently at 97% capacity, but Apollo Bay is in trouble with only 24% and Geelong at 37%.

Other than our pending redevelopment everything is going along nicely at the club with our Wednesday and Friday evening happy hours,

Point Grey Redevelopment Report

Last week, The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) met with representatives of the Point Grey Community Reference Group, the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club and the Lorne Historical Society, to provide briefings on the forthcoming public release of the draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the Point Grey precinct. A UDF is a detailed planning and design document, otherwise known as a strategic plan, that sets a long-term integrated design vision to guide the future use and development of an area.

The draft UDF for Point Grey will set out the plan for development of the Point Grey precinct over the next 10 years, but most importantly will show the proposed layout of the site including the location of buildings and other structures. This will then enable progress with the detailed design of the new Aquatic Club building and the proposed food and beverage outlet, now being referred to as a "kiosk".

It is planned to publish the draft UDF on the 27th May, inviting public submissions until 22nd June before which there will be a number of in-person and online engagement sessions. This is an important next step in the Point Grey redevelopment and the Committee of the Aquatic Club strongly encourages everyone with an interest in this unique site to consider and contribute to the discussion. We will be providing further commentary once we are able to do so following the release of the draft UDF. The UDF will shape the future of Point Grey and is critical to the future of your Club.

On Friday 9th May, GORCAPA released the findings of two independent technical assessments of the Lorne Fishing Co-operative building at Point Grey. The assessments confirm that the building, which was originally

constructed in 1949, has reached the end of its useful life and is unsafe for future use. GORCAPA have advised that early works in preparation for demolition will commence shortly. John Higgins

Working Bee

Friday 30th May at 8am - The Co Op clean out. Our Container has arrived and is located at the back of our clubhouse so the clean up will all be done and dusted by midday. All Welcome.

Point Grey will never be the same again when this old girl goes. Very Sad.



World Sausage Roll Championship

Kings Birthday Long Weekend, Sunday 8th June. It's on again and it's the real thing. The winner will be the Official Dinky Di World Champion. We will have prizes for four categories; Biggest, Smallest, Funniest and the Winner is the best tasting beer one, which is decided by our panel of three local celebrity judges who all started eating sausage rolls before they had teeth.

A couple of them are so old now they've returned to having no teeth.

All you have to do is arrive before 5pm with your entry but you must be a member. Like all our competitions, It's free to enter and you only need one sausage roll for the judges but we encourage everyone to bring a heap to feed the hungry hordes.

Continued page 35



LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

*Inspiring Excellence
by the Sea!*

It's been a busy start to Term 2 but the onset of the cooler weather has not dampened our spirits here at Lorne P-12. We participated in important events such as Anzac Day, built our new Gaga Pit with funds raised from the Easter Raffle and Year 8 students have just returned from Urban Camp in Melbourne's CBD.

Lest We Forget



On ANZAC Day, we paused to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and service of all those who have served and continue to serve our country. We are incredibly proud of our School Captains, who represented our school with dignity and respect, leading the walk to the cenotaph and reading the poignant poem In Flanders Fields. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our Primary Choir for their beautiful singing and we would especially like to acknowledge Amanda and Indi Wylie for their dedication and work with our students. Your efforts bring these moments to life and help us honour this important day with the reverence it deserves.

We look forward to sharing exciting news in the coming months about re-instating The Avenue Of Honour acknowledging the 32 students from Lorne P-12 who served our country.

Lest we forget.



Good Times In the Big Smoke

My highlight of camp was.....

"Exploring issues regarding youth homelessness and helping people who may need assistance"

- Viv

"Our visit to the Big Issue and exploring Melbourne"

- Tay

"Learning that we need to be empathetic to all homeless and non privileged people"

- Jude

The year 8's recently returned from a 3-day Urban Camp in Melbourne CBD. With a focus on social justice, students visited The Big Issue as well as City Mission to engaged in insightful workshops. They also immersed themselves in city life; navigating public transport, eating out in Chinatown and visiting landmarks such as the State Library & Queen Victoria Market.



The Gaga Pit has been a roaring success, bringing students from all year levels together to play at break times.

From page 33

Fisheries Petition

We need your help! To stop the closure of 5 Fisheries Stations and the loss of 73 Fisheries Officer jobs discussed in Parliament, we need to sign a petition. These cuts don't just impact jobs – they put our marine life and fishing regulations at serious risk.

Sign the petition to protect our oceans and get this issue heard in Parliament!

Upcoming Events

Major Fishing Competition Number Four

Sponsored by Lorne Concreting, Tom Dawson

Sunday 8th June, the comp runs from 6am until the deadline of 12.30pm. Weigh-in starts at midday. It's free to enter for members and all competitors get a free roast lunch. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third in both the junior and senior categories. Juniors must be under the age of 18. You can only weigh in one fish each, so anyone can win on the day, and it's environmentally friendly. Come and have a crack. It's great fun.

School Fishing Outings

We have recently participated in two fishing days with the Lorne P-12 College out on the Pier. We supply all the rods and fishing gear and show the kids how to operate it all. The first one is done in conjunction with Victorian Fisheries where two fisheries officers attend a breakfast where they do a presentation and explain their role along our coast which is then followed by a Q & A with the students. We do this every year and have been doing so for over 20 years. Another one of our many community involvements.



Above: Spizz, Ric and the officers surrounded by the students before heading off to the Pier

Fishing Report

Boat

The fishing has continued its great run which has been helped immensely by the sensational weather. The water temperature has dropped to 17 degrees which is still 2 degrees above average, and the clear blue water has been replaced by cloudy green water, but this hasn't affected the fishing at all.

There's been some great catches of good sized; Snapper, King George Whiting, Gummies, Schoolies, Teraki and Swallowtail. There's plenty of Mackerel and Couta about which are the best bait you can get and it saves the pocket a bit. The Flathead have gone quiet with only a few being caught but nothing like they normally are in the Autumn. I've been told that there's been a trawler in our part of the world which has been netting flathead close to shore. I'm guessing this has affected our flathead population. These trawlers can catch as many Flathead in one night than we can catch in our entire lifetime.

Pier

The Pier continues its incredible run of great fishing. There's been good numbers of; Salmon, Snapper, Sharks, King George Whiting, Mullet, Trevally, Grass Whiting, Leatherjackets and Calamari.



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FLOWER POWER *By Doug Williams*

Any way you look at it flowers define our world. They have been here for around one hundred million years which is the age of the oldest fossilised angiosperms, and their flowers were being eaten or tromped on by dinosaurs for millennia.

These dinosaurs were on the planet for over one hundred and fifty million years. These flowering plants did not all expire when the dinosaurs and most other life forms became extinct and, as angiosperms, they make up most green plant life today. The other twenty per cent of them are gymnosperms that do not rely on insects, birds, and animals to propagate but do so by drifting their seeds into the wind, tiny helicopters on the breeze. These are conifers that are different to ferns that evolved earlier and which release spores instead. It's a farrago; it's a jumble.

Our human relationship with growing plants only goes back a little way – agriculture started in the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East ten thousand years ago where civilisation developed since people no longer needed to be nomadic to gather food but planted and harvested crops. Outside the human domain – where selective breeding has produced the varieties we use today – many plants spread their seeds in various ways, by producing a protective covering of fruit attractive to all consumers is a method that works well. This we all know. Animals, birds and insects spread them.

An oak tree doesn't drop acorns underneath its branches with any success of the seedlings germinating in the shade. It is hoping to set up away from itself so relies on squirrels for example to cache them elsewhere and if they collect many thousands over the lifetime of the tree then there is a pretty high chance, they will get at least one acorn to sprout and then that oak tree life goes on. The wild pea doesn't do it this way; it shoots seeds about four metres away from its parent plant. The dynamite tree also called the sandbox tree explodes its seeds for up to one hundred metres at nearly two hundred kilometres an hour. It's taken living plants millions of years to find different ways of propagating and so many different ways are used.

Burdock is one of those devils that catch onto your sock in small burrs so you can carry them hither and yon from where they are picked up. The burr has tiny hooks and eyes which a Swiss engineer and his dog Milka brought home in 1941. His study of these burrs resulted in the invention of Velcro, for which we are forever grateful since we cannot live without it.

The dandelion grows everywhere delightfully, and children can blow the fluffy heads away and make a wish as the seed head floats off and finds new ground by causing a vortex above itself to carry it away, or they can be handed to children who blow the seed heads into space. On the other



hand, the seeds of opium poppies and its offshoots have not been quite so good, tobacco leaf has not been kind to us and the flower of hemlock, related to carrots, uses a lethal poison to deter grazing animals and is lethal to humans. It's yin and it's yang, it's positive and negative, it's weakness and power, it's you and it's me. And it is flowers, the Order of the World.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello Editor

I have just been first patient on the new leg blood machine. It is fantastic and saved me a trip to Geelong. It will be a help for a lot of people.

Thank you to the Op Shop for donating this.

Jenifer Collins

Dear Editor

I am writing to raise serious concerns about the condition of one of the main roads into Lorne—my only practical route to work. Of the three roads that connect to Lorne, this one has deteriorated to a disgraceful state and now poses daily safety risks not only to me but to countless other workers, tradies, tourists, and cyclists.

On a normal day, we contend with the usual: a few tourists, bike riders, the occasional wallaby, and the odd truck, bus or large vehicle crossing double lines. But now, we also have to dodge large potholes just to avoid blowing another tyre. I've had to swerve three times this week on corners to avoid a cement truck, a waste truck and a bus veering even further over the line—forced out by the road's poor condition.

Wildlife activity is increasing too. More kangaroos are venturing onto the road looking for food, and I have even encountered a deer. This is no longer a rare rural road hazard—it's becoming a daily threat.

It's not just about possible vehicle damage; It's a matter of life and death. What happens when a cyclist hits a pothole and ends up in the middle of the road, directly in the path of an oncoming vehicle? With narrow shoulders and blind corners, there's no margin for error.

For me, avoiding this road means a 2.5-hour trip to work instead of one hour. That's not a viable option. Something has to change.

This road is vital infrastructure, and its condition is beyond neglect—it's dangerous.

Authorities need to act now: inspect, repair, and maintain this road before someone pays the ultimate price.

Kind Regards, Keri Cachia

Dear Editor

Soap Boxes

Many years ago, before social media, if you had something to say, maybe on a topic - political, social or religious -

you might have travelled to the local park, jump up on your "soap box" and shout out your opinion to the public gathered around to see what all the fuss was about. Your audience might have been just a few hundred people.

Haven't times changed? Now with all the available social media platforms, people can comment on any topic they like and may have a readership of tens of thousands. The Lorne Community Facebook page is full of people's thoughts on this, that, and the other thing, personal opinions which we may choose to read, comment on or just ignore. Many people simply want to be "a legend in their own lunchbox". Although I personally think most people's opinions are not worth reading, we all have a right to "vent" as long as it's not outside the laws of Facebook or the administrator.

It is quite a different thing, however, when we use our position on a committee or the privilege of having a column in our local paper on behalf of an association, to state our personal views. I write the monthly Op Shop Buzz and articles are always focused on shop news, upcoming events, funny stories of things that have happened. It would never be appropriate for me to use this forum to comment on community issues in Lorne.

I would ask that committees/associations stick to their brief. Much like councils - rates, roads and rubbish. Community members would prefer to know who your group is comprised of, what your group is doing, how it is moving forward to represent and assist Lorne. We do not want to hear your personal opinion on issues that have nothing to do with your association. I am sure that if I made this comment in my role of Op Shop Buzz author, I would be soundly reprimanded, as so I should be.

So, for those who write publicly, please do your research, stay well within your brief and consider who you might be offending.

Wendy Jarratt (my personal opinion only!)



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SHAVINGS FROM THE SHED *By Allan Walls*

A new monthly column to keep us updated on shed life!

Bob Sinclair's 80th and other news

Oh, what a night ... a youthful Bob Sinclair had his 80th Birthday at the Lorne Bowls Club last Saturday night with approximately 80 of his friends in attendance.

A live Jazz Band certainly filled the room with music and I am sure many of those in attendance still have ringing in their ears.

As Bob is renowned for being late, a group of his fellow Lorne Shedders presented him with 8 alarm clocks and an OBE (an Over Bloody Eighty) Badge. The night was filled with great friends, great food, and great wine supplied by In the Skies. Rumour has it that Bob had to renew his bar tab at least twice.

At the Shed, things are really happening with plenty of jobs on the go. These include repairing a broken walking stick, Rod Van Ingen [along with Kevin Riley] manufacturing a new honour board for the Aquatic Club, and Allan Walls and his team restoring a vintage Rocking Horse.

Horror of horrors, on Tuesday 13th May the power went out at the Shed on all equipment, barring the coffee machine. I have never seen so many shedders look

completely lost with none of their favourite machines working, but, as usual, many plans were hatched including a trip to Ray Sutton's Cheese making facility at Penny Royal followed by lunch at Birregurra Grocer in Birregurra. Nothing idle about our shedders.

On a slightly sad note, Shedder Don Baldwin has left Lorne permanently for the second time to reside on the Gold Coast. Don has been a much-respected Shedder and friend to all at the Shed and we are disappointed to see him leave. Don was our secretary for quite a few years. While quite a few of us secretly hope that Don returns again, we wish him all the best.

The Easter Yachting Regatta was a great success. So much so that construction is now underway for a further 6 yachts ready for what I am sure will become a bi-annual event.

With well over 100 members, the Shed is a great place to be, chat, compare notes and simply enjoy the yarns that often get repeated.

We welcome new members at any time so, if you would like to join us, call David Lawler on 0418 371617.

If it can be fixed, we will fix it.

WORKING GROUP MAKES PROGRESS ON LORNE'S WATER FUTURE

The Lorne: Water, Your Say Community Working Group is progressing its discussion and assessment of water augmentation options for the town.

The group's local knowledge is helping to inform a sustainable and resilient water future for Lorne, with focused discussions on potential new water sources, savings and smarter water use.

At a group meeting in May, Barwon Water presented a range of potential options and how they performed against assessment criteria, considering water supply and climate, along with environmental, social and economic values.

The working group discussed the options and provided input into which options Barwon Water should take forward for further consideration for Lorne.

While there were diverse views among members, the working group determined the options they would like Barwon Water to evaluate in more detail.

These included a potential mix of initiatives that aim to save more water around homes, use smarter water management tools and technologies, and find more water sources.

Barwon Water General Manager of Planning, Delivery and Environment Seamus Butcher said the group had contributed a lot of time and effort to inform the engagement program.

"The community working group members are passionate about their local area and the water needs for Lorne's future," Mr Butcher said.

"Our meetings have involved lively discussions and extensive work to find potential solutions for future water augmentation.

"There is a range of options for us to evaluate, that could potentially enable us to build a portfolio of initiatives to help meet Lorne's future water needs."

Barwon Water will now investigate the shortlist of options, with findings to be presented to the community working group for further discussion in July.

Feedback will also be sought from the broader community. We encourage all Lorne community members to monitor our dedicated project page at <https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/lorne-hub>

VOLUNTEERS AT THE HEART OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Every corner of the Great Ocean Road tells a story — and more often than not, it's a volunteer helping to write it.

This National Volunteer Week, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is proud to recognise the remarkable contributions of the hundreds of volunteers who generously give their time, energy, and care to protect and enhance this iconic and culturally significant part of Victoria.

Without the help of volunteers, invasive species would spread unchecked, fragile dune systems would erode, and native wildlife would struggle to survive.

The beaches and parks we all enjoy might not be as clean, as accessible, or as vibrant as they are today.

Across the region, local stewardship is alive and well. Groups such as the Aireys Inlet, Anglesea and Torquay Rubbish Rangers, Friends of Queens Park and Taylor Park, Jan Juc Coast Action, Surfrider Foundation, Wye to Wongarra Landcare, and Apollo Bay Landcare continue to lead by example.

Over the past year, more than 500 community members have volunteered directly with us, contributing close to 6,000 hours across a wide range of projects.

It's an extraordinary effort — but the true impact of their work goes far beyond the numbers.

From Hooded Plover monitoring and weed control to track maintenance and cultural heritage protection, volunteers play a hands-on role in caring for Country every day.

There isn't space to name every group that contributes — and that in itself, speaks volumes. From emergency services like the CFA, SES, and Surf Life Saving Clubs to the dedicated volunteers running sporting clubs, and patrolling our beaches on weekends, these individuals are the backbone of our region.

Every time someone walks a well-maintained track, sees a Hoodie chick surviving against the odds, or enjoys a clean beach and a safe swim between the flags — it's thanks in large part to volunteers who give their time, quietly and selflessly to care for this special place.

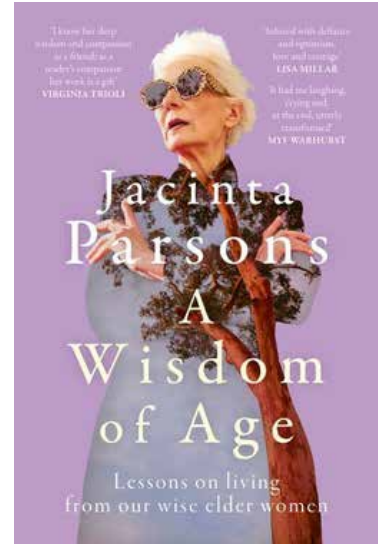


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FICTION: WE'RE NOT US WITHOUT YOU

BY CHRISTINE KEIGHERY

A darkly compelling and addictive drama about the ties of friendship and the dangers of blind belief. High school friends Lani, Tinker, Maya and Stig were inseparable until an unthinkable act shook the group. Now in their thirties, three of the friends are still close while Stig has disappeared completely. Four friends. One secret. And the cult that could burn them all.

NON-FICTION: ALWAYS HOME, ALWAYS HOMESICK

BY HANNAH KENT

'In a land of ethereal beauty, within a culture soaked in myth, a young woman discovers the story that will change her life.

Always Home, Always Homesick is Hannah Kent's exquisite love letter to a land that has forged a nation of storytellers, her ode to the transcendent power of creativity, and her invitation to us all to join her in the realms of mystery, spirit and wonder.

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