

LORNE



JUDITH AND JOHN SMYTH

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Not many of us can claim to be a member of an international body such as the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians.

John, a serious cricket buff from an early age (with an extensive library to prove it) played grade cricket in Hobart for three years while fulfilling the hospital commitment of his medical degree. After two more years at the Austin Hospital he switched to General Practice in which he stayed until retirement. Having to be on duty and work alternate weekends put an end to him playing cricket but golf quickly took its place.

Judith admits her interest in golf was largely connected to John's. Both have represented their clubs in pennant and John was awarded life membership of his. Judith has been Women's Club Champion three times at Lorne Country Club as well as President.

John met Judith at an RSL dance in Lorne in 1954, while on holidays as a third year student at Melbourne University. John's family has been part of Lorne since 1888. He completed his primary education at the Lorne School because his father was headmaster. He speaks of riding his bike to Jamieson River with his mates and walking up the very steep track and knowing firsthand the difficulties the CFA have had fighting the current fire.

Married in 1961, producing three sons and currently enjoying six grandchildren, they have lived permanently in Lorne for 15 years. Judith has been involved in Red Cross, the Lionesses and lately the Op Shop. John has been a Secretary of Lorne CFA for 8 years, on the board of the Lorne Country Club and on the Lions Retirement Village Committee.

They have travelled overseas but their first love is driving around Australia. Favourites are "off the beaten track parts" of the Kimberleys, Kakadu and the Flinders Ranges.

Winter is not an issue for The Smyths. They simply escape to the Sunshine Coast for two and a half months every year.

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 30 **Wye & Sep Bands Together – Bushfire Relief**, An all-day free event commencing at 12noon at the Wye Beach Hotel
- 30-31 **Cadel Evans GOR Ride and Race**

FEBRUARY

- 6 **Victorian Surf Life Saving Masters Championships**, at Lorne Beach
- 7 **Victorian Surf Life Saving Senior Championships**, at Lorne Beach
- 13 **Castle & Candle Competition**, at St George River

Please forward the dates of your Lorne Ward community event via the contact details at the bottom of this page.

Show your support for the Surf Coast

As your eyes descend through this column, there will be many of our children returning to school to commence the 2016 year, some for the first time and some for the last. The summer school holidays draw to a close after a month of summer experiences like no other. The Jamieson Track bushfire has been contained, a number of holidaymakers have returned to focus on the year ahead and the strength of our coastal neighbours at Separation Creek and Wye River has been inspirational.

On Saturday at the Wye River Beach Hotel, there is a major fundraising day to benefit those that lost homes in the fires. Titled "Wye and Sep Band Together" the big event kicks off at midday and features performers such as Imogen Brough, Perch Creek, Gin Slingers, Mr Black and Blues (with special guest Chris Wilson) and many more

There will be a charity auction in the evening at approx 7pm with some amazing offerings including items such as a Clipsal 500 package (with flights, accommodation, airfares, hot lap of the track and Barossa Valley tour), Qantas flight simulator experience, assorted sporting and music memorabilia including a signed yellow leaders jersey by Cadel Evans, Crown, Mantra and Big 4 accommodation packages and much more.

This event is a fantastic opportunity to put your support behind our coastal neighbours and I urge every one of you to make an appearance at some stage during the day or evening to ensure this event is a huge success. For those that are unable to attend donations can be made for the Wye and Separation Creek Communities by making a contribution to the Spirit Foundation Account No.4 BSB 633 000 Account No. 150164101. Hope to see you there!

On January 9, the Committee for Lorne executive convened a meeting with those associated with our Arts, Culture and Heritage to throw our support behind an economic recovery plan to help rejuvenate our twelve month trade to asset in balancing the offset of the downturn following the Jamieson Track fires.

Meetings followed with Emergency Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley and Deputy Premier James Merlino as we are keen to table our concerns as a matter of urgency (see adjoining article).

I cannot go without acknowledging the brilliant support given by two of our community members from the football fraternity in Brian "BT" Taylor and Michael Turner. To see them throw their support behind the Lorne Football and Netball Club the way they did again for the very successful Summer Major Fundraiser was massive. Their combined efforts and assisted by Sam Keckovich and Patrick Dangerfield were a huge contribution to the local football and netball fundraiser which holds them in a good financial position for the year ahead.

Ian Stewart

IAN STEWART
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

The bushfires which hit Wye River and Separation Creek on Christmas Day had an incredible impact, both physically and emotionally, on those communities. 116 homes destroyed and the lives of so many people, both permanent and non-permanent residents of those villages, changed forever. Many of the homeowners in the coastal towns of the Surf Coast have memories which go back generations and in so many cases, homes which come to life in summer months with extended family and visitors are the basis of those memories. So it's not just about the loss of a physical structure it also about the loss of tangible items which stimulate those memories; an old surf board, the outdoor shower, the fireplace or dining table which where the scenes of so many stories and memories.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the members of the Wye and Sep communities by many organisations not the least of which is the Spirit Foundation, started here in Lorne to support one of our own and now activated to raise funds for those affected by the fires.

There has also been another significant impact upon the all towns in the Surf Coast, and that's the impact upon business. The closure of the Great Ocean Road and the reduced visitation has meant that all businesses; accommodation providers, retail shops and cafes and restaurants have experienced a massive downturn in business and now is the time for everyone who loves the Surf Coast to show your support for the businesses affected.

In one of the Community Meetings held in Lorne after Christmas Day, the Incident Controller for the fire, Alistair Drayton, committed to getting things back to normal as quickly as possible and that included re-opening the Great Ocean Road. He acknowledged that for places like Lorne, January was "harvest month". He's right. For many businesses in Lorne, January is the month in which they take up to 40 per cent of their annual income. Think about the number of people in Lorne in January compared to July and you'll see what we mean.

The communities between Anglesea and Apollo Bay need your support. At the end of this week, the holidays are over for many, but the best of the weather is, traditionally, still to come. There are events which will be happening over the next couple of months which are great experiences for everyone and which this year in particular provide everyone with an excuse and an opportunity to revisit the coast and support local business.

A few examples:



Apollo Bay Seafood Festival – Saturday, February 20.

A fun day out for all! The day kicks off from 10am with cooking demonstrations from local and celebrity chefs, live entertainment, market stalls, wine, beer and of course - seafood in abundance!

On the menu you can expect fresh crayfish, abalone, calamari, mussels, flake, scallops, snapper, blueberries, raspberries, shitake mushrooms, olives, wines, beers, truffles, cheeses, vegetables meats – all locally sourced.

The Apollo Bay Seafood Festival began in 2011 and showcases Apollo Bay as a seafood destination.



Lorne Sculpture Biennale – Saturday, March 12 through to Sunday April 3.

This event will be a multi layered event and our curator for 2016, Julie Collins, has announced the return of the Sculpture Trail with around 35 major sculptures positioned along the coastline, Small Sculpture (The Collectors' Project), Sculpturescape where sculptors will create sculptural projects on site over two days and an expanded Performance Art program providing several not-to-be-missed experiences.

Qdos Arts has an extensive program of exhibitions and performances over coming months and is well worth a visit. For more information visit qdosarts.com.



In addition to these signature events on the Surf Coast, there are two luncheon events in Lorne over the next couple of months.

- **Lorne Sculpture will be hosting a "Slow Lunch" at Qdos on Sunday, February 14. For more information, email info@lornesculpture.com or call Liz on 0437 213 229**
- **Melbourne Food and Wine Festival have a regional "Longest Lunch" in the grounds of Mantra Lorne on Friday March 4. For bookings visit melbournefoodandwine.com.au**

These events will be wonderful experiences and your support will be very much appreciated.

At the same time, the Committee for Lorne has developed an Economic Recovery Plan for presentation to state and local government emphasising the extent of the economic impact our business communities have experienced and proposing a series of events to be staged over autumn and winter, between the Sculpture Biennale in March April and the Festival of Performing Arts in September, to attract visitation to our region. Without these events it will be a long, cold winter for our businesses and its important for all our communities that businesses survive.

What can you do? Well, support for the events mentioned here is a great start. And as we move forward with a bigger events program, we are always looking for volunteers to help us. It's not a big commitment and it's a chance for everyone to show his or her support. If you are interested in staying in touch and possibly helping us out, please register your interest at info@committeeforlorne.org.au

IAN STEWART
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE FOR LORNE INC.

