

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



KEITH MILLER

COMMUNITY PROFILE

It just happened to be Clean Up Australia Day when I met Keith leaving the water from a dive to remove rubbish under the pier.

He has been diving for 45 years racking up over 2,000 dives around the world. "By far the greatest experience was in The Galapagos Islands." Clearly he loves travel having been to 114 countries with more in the pipe line.

"My bucket list has nearly been ticked off"

Recently he and 20 friends and family celebrated his 60th birthday in India, especially memorable because a friend successfully carried off a hoax text from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

His serious scuba diving started after he and some mates had a go at competitive spear fishing. One day he questioned the killing of fish and decided looking at them might be a preferable option. He also took up underwater photography for a while. However he does love to be a fisherman every now and again and throw a line in. He is on the committee of The Aquatic Club.

Keith has always loved open ocean swimming and competes in about six events a year, including the last 17 Pier to Pub Swims but "I have noticed I am getting slower every year."

This Colac boy looked on Lorne as his second home because of all the time he spent here on holidays. After school he began work in a farm machinery company which became a career for him. He married and had four children and says he is still waiting for grandchildren.

He bought his house in Lorne 20 years ago with retirement in mind. Five years ago he did just that and became a permanent resident.

After all the countries he has seen, he emphatically says, "There is nowhere better place than Lorne!"

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH

- 12 - 3/4 **Lorne Sculpture Biennale**, running for 3 weeks on Lorne foreshore
- 24 **Lions Easter Art Show Opening Night**, 7:00pm at Senior Citizens Centre
- 24 **Murray2Moynes Fundraising Dinner**, for Michael 'Camel' Callanan, 6pm at The View @ The Lorne Hotel, bookings via www.trybooking.com/181482 or 0418 725 726
- 25-28 **Lions Easter Art Show**, 10am-5pm at Senior Citizens Centre, 25-28 Mar
- 26 **Lorne Kinder Fair**, 9am-4pm on the Lorne Foreshore
- 26 **Wye River Easter Fete**, CFA Shed 10am to 12pm.
- 27 **LAAC Major Fishing Comp No 3**, at the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.
- 27 **Deans Marsh Festival**, from 10am to 5pm
- 28 **Easter Tennis Tournament**, at Lorne Country Club 9.30-1pm. Enter now: John Ford 0418 372 709 or Jillian Chapman 0407 338 904

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

"Be Prepared!"

Were you prepared on Christmas Day?

Were you in Lorne on Christmas Day?

- Did the evacuation recommendation take you by surprise?
- What sources of information had you been using about the bushfire?
- Had you been using more than one source, including your own visual observations?
- Did you know what to do? Where to go?
- Did you have a fallback plan in case things go wrong?
- Did you know what to do to make the house safer when you left?
- Did you know what to take with you?
- Were your irreplaceable items already stored somewhere safer during the "fire season"?

Are you a member of a Community Fireguard Group (CFG)? If the answer is "Yes", you would have been able to answer all these questions. Unlike one person, who said: "When I was advised to evacuate, my mind went blank and I panicked. I didn't know what to do."

There are two Community Fireguard Groups currently active in Lorne and more are expected to be formed before next summer. The two groups are the Summerhills CFG and the George/Wallace CFG.

The Summerhills CFG met for the first time on 12 January 2008, with six participants. The group continues to grow and is now 30 strong, with members in the area north of Stony Creek in Summerhills Avenue, Trade Winds Avenue, Hazel Street and Skyline Court. Only three are permanent residents; the rest are holiday homeowners. The group meets in people's homes on a 'needs' basis; much of the communication is done by email.

The George /Wallace CFG numbering 18 families (50% locals) was formed before 2009 and has since met prior to the Fire Season each year, and informally (during the year as neighbours) to share ideas and improvements to their properties and Fire Plans.

Community Fireguard is a free CFA program where a CFA Facilitator provides resources and support to a group of local neighbours who share a bushfire risk, to assist them in developing personal Fire Plans. Activities include visiting each others' properties,

looking at personal protection gear and equipment, or inviting along a guest speaker. Some useful partnerships have also been formed with:

- Surf Coast Shire** - The George/Wallace CFG participated in the Surf Coast Shire's Weed to Mulch program facilitated and managed by Darren Spicer - Community and Fire Safety Officer. And at the January 2016 Summerhills CFG meeting, Darren provided useful advice on the appropriate garden vegetation with regard to fire safety and also offered to visit members' properties to make on-the-spot recommendations.
- CFA** officers and/or local brigade members reviewing member's property fuel reduction needs.
- ParksVic** fuel reduction burns and clearing in Queens Park
- Barwon Water** - improved water pressure service by:

- Maintaining the Teddys Tank pumping overnight instead of the pressure being turning off at 1am each night.
- Providing an automatic restart of the pump after "power spikes" that turn the Teddys pump off, leaving houses in George and Wallace Sts without water pressure.

CFG members find that it is valuable to revisit and improve their Fire Plans. For example, before and at its 16 January meeting, Summerhills CFG members discussed what they had learnt about their Plans, which were put to the test on Christmas Day.

There is an excellent video on CFGs made by Producer/Director Sue Roberts of Luminescence Films, who is known to many in Lorne. Link is - https://youtu.be/K5Gd_NXbEgQ

If you would like to learn more about forming a local CFG, contact the CFA Facilitator for Lorne, Mandy Baker - 0427 316 395

or

Summerhills Group
Alain Purnell on 5289 2906 or 0417 031 905,
George/ Wallace Group
John Wilson on 5289 1689
or Gary White 5289 1793



When Sculpture meets Surf Life Saving???? - Who would have ever thought that two such diverse activities would go hand in hand on the Lorne Foreshore? What was meant to be the quieter weekend between Labour Day and Easter turned out to be an absolute blockbuster of enormous proportions. Weather conditions forced the transfer of the Victorian Life Saving Championships from Fairhaven to the north end of the Lorne beach last weekend and the crowds were enormous.

The Lorne Sulpture Biennale entered its second week and the life saving world was exposed to our "Creative Coast", as the diversity of our town continues to produce experiences like no other. While on Life Saving, we must congratulate the Lorne junior team who finished fifth at the recent State Titles conducted at the Warnambool beach, a brilliant effort and without doubt one of the most impressive results ever achieved by our local life saving juniors - well done.

As the summer sports come to an end our Lawn Bowlers also completed a memorable year with our mid week pennant team winning a premiership followed up by our division three men's team going through the season undefeated and securing another flag for the Dolphins. What was so good in viewing the media photos of our local teams was not only the beaming smiles but also the great cross section of ages, genders, long time married couples and personalities representing the Club.

To see the Kambouris's, Goette's, Coulson's, Lewis's and others playing together, winning premiership's and being part of a club that also boasts the Premiership youth of locals like Harley Davies and Emilio Graziani shows the depth and community involvement at all levels is at full strength. Congratulations to all involved; it has been a mighty effort!

Another huge weekend of activities about to unfold as the Easter break rounds off the gigantic month of March. On Thursday evening, the opening of the Lorne Lions Easter Art Show at the Lorne Senior Citizens Centre from 7pm, the "Ride for Camel" fundraising dinner hosted by the Lorne Spinners at the Lorne Hotel and the Lorne Football and Netball Club players' dinner and junior jumper presentation at Stribling Reserve from 6.30pm.

On Saturday visit the Lorne Kinder market on the foreshore then wander up to Stribling Reserve to watch the Dolphins play Birregurra at home. The legendary Mike Brady, Lorne's No.1 ticket holder, will perform a couple of songs pre-game and the inauguration of the Mark Trickey Memorial Cup prior to the blockbuster season opener against Birregurra. Then on Sunday visit our hinterland neighbours for the mighty Deans Marsh Festival or support the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club Easter fishing competition. Another action packed holiday break in Lorne

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne

COMMITTEE
FOR LORNE



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