

LORNE



ALLAN WALLS

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Allan's connection to Lorne started way back with ancestors from his mother's side cutting the first track from Deans Marsh to Lorne.

As a boy he spent holidays here with his grandparents who lived in Lorne, living with them for a time while his parents were building their house in Benalla and attending Lorne School. He remembers well the billy cart rides down Fern Avenue using blackberry bushes as brakes.

Allan studied accounting after he finished school in Benalla and got his first job with a local stock and station agent where he had five years of company accounting. The next five years were spent in private practice doing public accounting before he switched careers and opened a caravan and boat yard. He became the largest Flightcraft boat dealer in Australia and soon became one of Australia's largest Caravan Dealerships.

Moving on from that he bought into a Benalla based business brokerage firm and later purchased one of Victoria's largest broking houses, Tower Business Agency. It became the largest Caravan Park Brokerage firm in Australia. It is operating today as Tower Business and Real Estate and is franchised in every state. Allan was the owner and managing director for the 35 years.

He has also owned three caravan parks, was on the board of Big 4 Holiday Parks for four and a half years and last year he and his wife of 46 years, Audeen, were awarded Victorian Caravan Parks "Legend Status".

As a balance to business, Allan's passion is motor racing. He has competed in the Bathurst- 24 hour race, raced commodores all around Australia and taken out a class win in the Classic Adelaide four day tarmac rally and still has the car.

His other interests are his two children, travel, fly fishing, game fishing, golf and bowls.

Allan is a Committee member of the Bowls Club, The Stribling Reserve Management and was the driving force behind establishing a Mens Shed in Lorne. He is currently president.

"From 13 July 2013 when we had our first meeting it has taken 877 days of challenges to when we could dig the first hole. I can only say the support from the community has been magnificent."

The Walls bought their first house in Lorne in 1987 eventually moving to their current home in Lorne 9 years ago. It is now their permanent home.

Right now their latest challenge is whether to accept an invitation to join friends exploring Spain.

Now that's what I call a nice balance.

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

30 **Lorne vs Western Eagles football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

MAY

14 **Lorne vs Irrewarra-Beac football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

15 **Great Ocean Road International Marathon**, the Great Ocean Road will be closed between Lorne and Apollo Bay from 7am to 2:30pm, detours in place. The Lorne township will remain open.

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

The Anzac Day long weekend has come and gone with the blink of an eye and the services held in Lorne, both moving experiences against the backdrop of Louttit Bay. The hand crafted poppies, created by local Lorne people, that surrounded the memorial Cenotaph were a stand-out and demonstrated so clearly the respect and passion within our community for those that served our Country to never return.

With Forest Fire Management Victoria still awaiting the limited window to ignite their planned burns, and for the first time in decades we had stage three water restrictions imposed, it's fair to say the 2015/16 holiday season is all but behind us – albeit from the weather you wouldn't think so. It's been so encouraging to see the way the coast has pulled together in so many different ways to assist the Economic Recovery following the devastation of the Christmas fires and with the priority it required.

There is still much to be done for the residents of Separation Creek and Wye River as they embark on the rebuilding of their homes and their lives following their devastating losses. It is a difficult time as they juggle with the various Government Agencies to obtain a clear path for the redevelopment of what they once had. The irony of it all is that it could have so easily been the same situation at Kennett River and Lorne having it not been for the weather gods!

It appears that the vision of Asset Protection Zones for these bush fire affected areas, and other coastal towns in the Otway National Park, has not received the level of support that the majority of locals and "people in the know" have been pitching for. The Asset Protection Zones are likely to be so topical in the future planning for Fire Management strategies for not only Lorne but also other coastal neighbours and maybe it's time for a collective campaign to take it further!

The stage three water restrictions that have been introduced by Barwon Water are hopefully going to allow us to manage our water storage in the Allen Dam until we receive the much-needed rain. I was interested to view the chart from the Barwon Water web site that was shared with me showing the unprecedented drop in the level of our local Reservoir to be just under 1/3 full.

It also clearly showed the rapid rise in September last year, which was the result of 30mm of rain over two days. So it is clearly a very efficient catchment, but needs rainfall with significant runoff, rather than a few millimetres here and there. I feel confident the rain will come!

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne

Planned Burns around Lorne

This autumn, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Parks Victoria and the CFA have been focused on identifying planned burning opportunities around the Lorne community.

We have been monitoring the weather with support from the BOM. Our forest firefighters have been monitoring the moisture of dead grass, leaves and other fine fuels in the three priority burns we have around Lorne almost every day. We have also been keeping in touch with major local events and the Committee for Lorne to ensure any of our plans have minimal impacts on all the great things happening on the Great Ocean Road. So far, a good planned burning opportunity hasn't existed due to dryness, then regular rain and wind events.

Lorne's bushfire risk is significant but planned burning around the community has reduced this risk markedly. Since 2010 some challenging burns have been completed behind Lorne including the Stony Creek burn in 2012 and the Old Coach Road burn in 2015. As you know, burns around your community are complex and require thorough traffic management planning, community engagement and notifications to the locals and visitors. The Stony Creek burn in 2012 is a great example where short term impacts were minimised and a good long term protection outcome was achieved for your community. The Old Coach Road burn ignited last year was a second rotation burn

which means its been burnt before. Second rotation burns have lower fuel loads and are generally more manageable during the operation. Many burns around Lorne will be on their second rotation in the next few years which is great for maintaining the risk reduction we've been able to achieve in the last decade.

Surfcoast Shire have also been working with Lorne residents to reduce the fuel loads in and around houses which further reduces the risk to the community. Where possible, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Surfcoast Shire have tried aligning the planned burning and private property fuel management programs to add value to each other's work.

The planned burn most likely to be scheduled in the next few weeks around your community is the Lorne-Sheoak Picnic Ground burn. If you would like to be notified by SMS or email when this burn is scheduled, go to <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/fire-and-emergencies/planned-burning-notifications-system> and opt in. While you're there, why not sign up to be notified when any of the Lorne burns are scheduled over the next few years?

David Rourke
District Manager, Otway | Community and Services Division, Barwon South West Forest, Fire and Regions Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Lorne Fire History 2006 - 2016
22 Apr 1500Hrs - A3L - 1:48,994

