

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Who could hardly believe the weather pattern that continued till last weekend, to see people enjoying the ocean in early May, a sight seldom seen. With the mercury in the mid-twenties at multiple times over the past week it puts another dimension on enjoying Lorne in May. And then as the weekend came to a close the rain began to fall and continue it did, much to the benefit of the water levels in our Allen Dam.

On a personal front, May was always going to be big month for us with a milestone birthday for our son and hosting a large contingent of friends and family at our Lorne home, an even stronger motivator for keeping a very close eye on the weather patterns of late Autumn. The night of the 7th saw all the stars align as the balmy evening ensured everyone's comfort in our outdoor environment – We felt so lucky!

But then again we are so privileged in many ways that really the mild evening was just a bonus. To be able to experience great times with your children, your immediate family, a very large contingent of their numerous friends and in an environment like Lorne is so special in its own right. To share the thoughts of those that travelled from interstate, and beyond, reinforced the natural beauties that we are lucky enough to enjoy every single day of our lives.

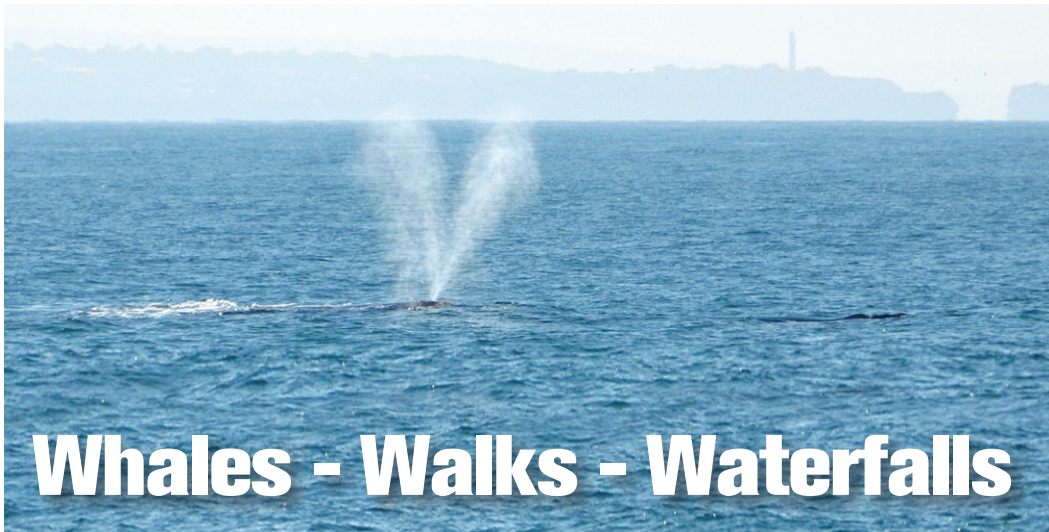
Furthermore it was absolutely heart-warming to see this similar sentiment being experienced at the Lorne Nursing Home. Last Friday I was "out and about" and couldn't help but notice in passing the residents at our Lorne facility enjoying the full autumn sun from their north facing balcony. The ever attentive team at the Lorne Nursing home, as always, going out of their way to ensure their residents enjoy an experience like no other.

I thought to myself, how good is that??? To witness our older generation being lovingly cared for in a first class residential environment in one of the best locations on the Australian coastline is testament to the past and ongoing work of a large number in our community. People that love to expand and share their strong personal values into a community they cherish and occasionally I use the word "lucky", but I think it goes a bit deeper than that!!

It is great to share the rise of success of the Lorne senior netballers through the early part of their season. After six rounds our young ladies have their A, B and C grade team's all in contention for a final five position. Our A grade side currently sits in second spot with B and C grade 3rd and 5th respectively. If you get a chance get along and cheer them on at home this weekend against Irrewarra-Beeac.

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne



Whales - Walks - Waterfalls

Lorne is a wandering Winter wonderland!

Winter is just around the corner with the whales set to visit our shores, and the walks and waterfalls coming alive with the wintry weather. Lorne and its backyard are a great place to explore nature's beauty in the cooler months.

Our first whales have visited us in early May in the last few years, and usually continue to pass through until October with June, July and August seeing the most sightings.

Southern Right whales frequent our area, with migrating humpbacks travelling through and the odd killer whale.

The giant visitors are easy to spot from many of the vantage points along the Great Ocean Road and use the calmer waters of Louttit Bay to shelter and frolic, creating a true winter attraction for our shoreline. Mothers and calves may visit for a fleeting moment or stay all day, making Lorne and surrounds the most amazing places to laze around over the winter months.

The whale blog will be active at www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au/whale-sightings, where visitors and locals alike can view sightings, report sightings and sign up for whale alerts.

The blue and white whale flag will again be flying at the Lorne Visitor Centre when a whales are sighted in Lorne and along the coast.

Visitors and locals are encouraged to report any sightings through the blog so that everyone can enjoy these majestic giants.

Frequent hot spots in Lorne can be North Lorne, the rock groyne, the main beach and the pier, and for a birds eye view, above Big Hill or Teddy's lookout. The whales can be viewed from any vantage point along the Great Ocean Road, just remember to obey traffic rules and pull over safely.

You may see a lazy tail slap or even a breach and if you're lucky, you may even hear them singing their amazing tunes.

While the whales are around, the winter wonderland of the Great Otway National Park comes alive, and with the rain, the waterfalls start flowing behind Lorne.

Visit one or all of the 10 waterfalls within a 10km radius behind Lorne and take advantage of the majestic rainforest in our backyard. Take an easy stroll or get more active with over 50km of marked tracks, our backyard is bigger than you think and can take days, if not weeks, to explore. As we say, if it's raining, go to the rainforest!

To explore the waterfalls behind Lorne, grab a copy of the free Lorne Walks and Waterfalls map from the Lorne Visitor Centre, and ask one of the friendly staff and volunteers for suggestions.



Visit Lorne and stay and night or two or even a week with one of the many accommodation providers and relax and recharge in one of the many cafes and restaurants while watching the whales or after exploring our natural backyard.



GRAHAM (SAM) JOHNSON

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Graham (Sam) had never missed a Christmas or New Year at Lorne until last year. There was however a very good reason – he was in Lima, Peru at his son's wedding celebrations.

The Johnson family of Sam, his wife Adrienne and their three sons, wives and six grandchildren use the house at Lorne most of the year. What started as a two-bedroom fibro purchased by his father in 1972, has become a work in progress to accommodate his ever extending family.

Sam grew up in Melbourne and attended Scotch College. He spent two years at RMIT after which he took a marketing course. His career began in the manufacture and sales of paper before running his own company, 'Paper Agencies'- that grew to be one of the largest paper importing companies in Australia. His connection to Finnish Paper Mills Association necessitated regular travel to Finland, eventually leading to his appointment as the Honorary Consul-General of Finland for Victoria. For 15 years he served in this position and as a result was awarded the Commander First Class of the Order of the Lion of Finland. He estimates that he travelled to Finland over a hundred times, either for business or matters related to the Consular Corps.

Sam still loves to travel and spends at least two months travelling abroad each year. He is a passionate golfer and plays nine holes every day he is in Lorne. He is a member of the Lorne Country Club, the Football Club, the Men's Shed and the Aquatic Club – which he particularly loves . "It's a remnant of Lorne's past we all treasure."

In reflecting upon his relationship with Lorne, Sam is pleased to see the completion of the circle in watching his grandchildren learning to surf and falling under Lorne's spell.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

- 14 **Lorne vs Irrewarra-Beeac 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.

JUNE

- 4 **Lorne vs Alvie football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

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

