

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



HELGA LEWIS

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Helga was still excited about the Lorne ladies bowls pennant win and no wonder a first in 30 years.

She also happens to be president of midweek pennant and loves the camaraderie that the club offers. Her accounting skills acquired as bookkeeper for their family business, a Non-Ferrous Foundry, made her an obvious choice as treasurer of the Lorne Bowls Club.

Helga migrated with her family from Austria in 1954, first settling in Geelong then later in Melbourne. Being the eldest of seven she was expected to help provide for the family.

When Helga married she and her husband moved to a farmlet at Toolern Vale where they trained pacers. At age 40 and on top of her farm work and rearing four children, she began to teach porcelain doll making, an art she was inspired to try from attending a doll show in Ballarat years earlier. "I looked at the dolls and thought I could do that. I took quite a few classes in Melbourne then decided I could teach it". She ran classes of 50 students, many of whom went on to win major awards at doll shows. She visited the US and Europe to attend lectures and classes and became highly regarded in her field.

In 1995 the Lewis's built a holiday house in Lorne as a retreat. Eventually when the farm and her teaching proved too much for them, they sold that house and built a permanent home and retired here.

I interviewed Helga in her large Lorne studio amongst shelves of porcelain dolls she has made from liquid porcelain to fully clothed characters with delicate finishes. She estimates she has made over 300 dolls. She hopes some of her 12 grandchildren will share her passion and carry the art on.

"Nowadays I am enjoying my new hobby." Set up on an easel is her latest painting. Watch for her work at future local art shows she's a natural.

She has travelled overseas in recent years but is currently discovering Australia. Next she has her eyes set on a European river trip.

You can see Helga walking her little dog, Maggie, daily along the beach in an environment she loves.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

- 4 **Lorne vs Alvie football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm
- 11 **Lorne Foreshore Market**, 9am - 4pm
- 11 **Lorne vs South Colac football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm
- 12 **Lorne & District Men's Shed - Grand Opening**. Stribling Reserve, Cnr William and Otway Streets, Lorne. Sunday June 12, 2016. 12.00pm - 2.00pm. The opening of the Lorne and District Men's Shed is a free event encouraging the community to come together and learn how this facility will become a regional epicentre for men's health. Light luncheon served. All welcome
- 30 **Lorne Op Shop AGM**. The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Lorne Community and Hospital Auxiliary (The Lorne Op Shop) will be held at 11.45 am on Thursday 30 June 2016 at the Lorne Community House.

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



CFA's cool Christmas Gala to heat up Lorne this July

Lorne CFA will celebrate Christmas in July with a gala event marking the Brigade's 80th Birthday on Saturday July 9, 2016 at Mantra Lorne.

The Lorne CFA Brigade leadership group - Captain Frazer Buckle, First Lieutenant Lee Hollmer and Secretary Dee Stewart - will welcome CFA members and the wider community to celebrate the Christmas themed milestone.

"I'm honoured to be the Captain of the Lorne CFA and be part of its long history. So many of us today aren't aware the brigade was started by local people like us keen to protect Lorne. We're part of a long history of community service and this gala is an opportunity to make sure that legacy is remembered" said Frazer.

The Lorne Urban Brigade was registered in 1936 with many of Lorne's established families actively embracing the idea of a locally organised firefighting force and directly contributing to its success. Members of the Stribling, Allen, Love, Ridgeway, Fletcher, Howard, Alsop, Holliday, Stirling, Stewart and Smith families - among many others - were instrumental in developing, and in the following decades, sustaining what we now know as the Lorne CFA.

Dee Stewart, Lorne CFA's Secretary and active fire fighter said "our 80th birthday celebration will acknowledge brigade members past and present but make no mistake it's going to be a party. One of Lorne's favourite artists Mikangelo will be performing and we hope everyone will eat, drink and be merry!"

The birthday celebrations will take on a decidedly Christmas atmosphere to acknowledge the Christmas 'Jamieson's Track' Bushfires in 2015 that devastated neighbouring townships of Wye River and Separation Creek with 116 homes lost.

Dee continued "celebrating Christmas in July is so important to both our CFA members as well as the community. Many families evacuated Lorne on Christmas Day and although saddened to miss Christmas, everyone knew local fire fighters stayed behind. Not only did our brigade miss Christmas altogether most were serving through the night and round the clock for the next few weeks."

"We have a fantastic CFA team organising this exciting event. Clay Thompson, Suzi Diviny, Gen Genesse and many other members are working

exceptionally hard to deliver a jolly Christmas celebration that also honours the Lorne CFA's remarkable history. Don't miss it!" said Dee.

The evening will include fire-side canapes followed by a two-course meal with live entertainment, silent auction and a CFA awards presentation.

Tickets to the CFA's Christmas in July Gala will go on sale from mid-June. Further event and ticketing information will be featured from mid-June online on Facebook's Lorne Community Noticeboard and in print at the noticeboard opposite the Lorne Post Office. Save the date!

Susannah Sprague



As I put pen to paper this week I am fortunate to be in the South Pacific on our spiritual homeland of Fiji, having just attended the wedding of our special "Brother", native born Fijian Viliame Leqa to Lusiana Kaususu. In a traditional ceremony not often experienced by people from other cultures it was a privilege to be involved as members of families from both sides came together from outer islands to celebrate the occasion.

Set in Suva's magnificent Sacred Heart Cathedral the ceremony featured many lasting impressions but to me there was one that stood stronger than any other. The choir of just over 30 Fijian singers of all ages combined their voices to sing as one as their tones filled the ceiling of the church and filtered into the adjoining Streets. Their voices were beautiful but it was the happiness and joy that beamed from their faces and large beaming smiles that will stay with me.

On our forward journey we carried many memories from previous experiences that this year we couldn't share with some of our founding "Brothers". Although Al Pal and Trick weren't physically with us they were certainly there in spirit and there wasn't a day go by when a story wasn't shared of a special legacy they had left behind. Friendships that last decades are valued so much and we realise that what we have is not the norm; our relationship means so much.

To share our story with others drives home the enormity of what we have been so fortunate to enjoy with each other. Twenty-nine years ago the first inscription was made on the Murray River Challenge Cup, a small pewter mug, that has recorded each and every winner of our annual golfing experience. We have experienced a journey, which includes destinations across Australia, New Zealand, China and Fiji, and the experiences and memories of travel have been ever lasting. But there has, and always will be, one further phenomenon that stands above all others; the mateship of the "Brotherhood".

As we return home to Lorne we need no reminder that winter is now upon us and our time in the South Pacific another treasured lasting memory. The June long weekend is fast approaching and it will be a very special occasion for the Lorne Men's Shed when they have their official opening on Sunday the 12th of June of their brand new facility at the Stribling Reserve. Having officially completed their "sign off" of their license agreement with the Surfcoast Shire all is in readiness for their landmark event.

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne