

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Mid year school holidays on the coast has injected a sprinkling of a number of things from the white Otway blanket to a slight upturn in holiday visitor numbers. It is an interesting time of the year as many local businesses juggle the challenges that are thrown. Such challenging seasonal conditions make retailing and trading in Lorne so much more unpredictable and risk averse than mainstream commercial activity.

It is a time of the year when many will rotate and roster their long term staff on leave, some will share the reduced hours among their teams while others will implement flexible annual hours to balance out the more quite winter months. Trading in Lorne is a specialist form of retailing and I take my hat off to those that are able to create a business model that lasts the test of time, it isn't easy. It's this time of the year that "spending local" means so much to those that keep their doors open to service our town year round.

My recent Far North Queensland journey was located in a coastal town that experiences all the same seasonal fluctuations as we do, except at the reverse time of the year. As they embark on their peak season and Lorne is in the depths of its quietest, our challenges remain very similar. When you stroll the Main Street of Port Douglas the differing languages of the shop assistants and hotel staff is a strong symbol of the transient work force that services the far north region.

To see the same faces working multiple jobs at varying locations is testament to their commitment to making the most of the short periods of employment on offer. And just like Lorne, the business proprietors are on deck, hands on and in the background every day of the peak holiday season. What they have managed to accomplish very well is the training of their seasonal workers to deliver of a strongly focussed service culture in their town. This is something that I know the Lorne Business and Tourism Association is committed to achieving – consistency and quality of service across all businesses; retail, accommodation and hospitality

As I reflect on the couple of weeks I had away, although it was the natural beauty and the experiences of the people that were the memory of Port Douglas, above all it was the experience oh having my family unit together as one to enjoy this time together. Despite the differing study requirements of a 17 and a 21 year old, the ability for my wife Lynda and myself to spend time with them reinforces how every challenge and hurdle that we face is reinforced by the love and respect we share - I feel so lucky in many ways!!!!

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne



SPIEGELTENT TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT FOPA 2016

FOPA, Lorne's Festival Of Performing Arts, announces its line-up for 2016 promising a three day celebration of performing arts centred around a stunning - century old - Spiegel tent.

The **2016 FOPA** program is being let out of the proverbial bag this week and it's awash with some of most exciting artists across the country. With more than 4,000 expected to partake in the program centred around a historic Spiegel tent; this boutique festival will host some leading cabaret, comedy, theatre, circus, music and free family-friendly performers.

"For our first FOPA, we are thrilled to present a program showcasing artists at the top of their game. The talent on offer is bound to attract people from near and far. We can't wait to see Lorne hopping with festival fever," said Artistic Director **Edwina Lunn**.

This year there's an extra reason for Lorne to celebrate with a historic Spiegel tent and reinvigorated festival hub to provide an intimate, specialised experience for the discerning punters. With an interior comprising of teak booths, mirrors, stained glass - even velvet – the Spiegel tent will indeed be posh!

The Festival kicks off with the **FOPA Gala**, an evening extravaganza overflowing with snippets and tastes of the festival program. From comic twerker **Tessa Waters** to laconic storyteller **Phil Spencer** as emcees, not to mention Elana Stone of **All Our Exes Live** in Texas and the junkyard theatrics of **The Suitcase Royale**, expect music, acrobatics and operatic solos. Tickets to opening night always sell like hotcakes, so the Gala will be repeated on Saturday night to give everyone a chance to experience the gala in the Spiegel tent.

And speaking of fun, why should adults be the only ones to have some? Drum roll please – we hereby present the first ever Lorne **FOPA Kids Gala**, a family-friendly show bursting at the seams with circus tricks, theatrical wonder and giggles galore.

A FOPA first, the **Drawing Room** Series takes audiences into the living rooms of the Surf Coast's most exquisite and historically significant homes. With intimate performances at each exclusive address, the Drawing Room Series puts Baroque, indie-folk and operatic arias into spectacular domestic settings to both entertain and



satiate your curiosity.

This year's Festival jewel is the Twilight Chorus. Guided by the professional voices of Australian indie-folk darlings, All Our Exes Live in Texas, community choirs from around the region will join forces to flaunt the power of the voice on Lorne's foreshore.

FOPA's program also features comedy legends **Denise Scott, Tom Gleeson and Tessa Walters**, with her physical comedy, WOMANz. Purveyors of rollicking musical mischief, The Suitcase Royale, will ramp up late night shenanigans.

Direct from indie-folk heaven All Our Exes Live in Texas will make you swoon with sweet harmony. Renowned for her blistering harmonies, **Rowena Wise's** pop infused melodies and quirky conversational lyrics are delivered with a voice that can caress you in one breath. The seductive sounds of **Mojo Juju** will headline a free Closing Festival Party.

After proving to be a huge hit at last year's Festival, our local stars return to FOPA – this time to perform in the **School Bands Showcase** in the stunning surrounds of the Spiegel tent. Showcasing the abundant wealth of talent overflowing from our coastal communities.

"FOPA is a small festival with a big heart, committed to presenting performers who traverse the performing arts sphere. Don't miss it!" says **Edwina Lunn**.

FOPA September 2-4 2016. Tickets on sale now at www.fopa.com.au and the Lorne Visitor's Information Centre



CALLAN CURNOW

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Lorne is welcoming a new kid on the block. On August 1, Callan is opening his Surf Coast Technology and Gadget Guru shop under the Cumberland.

A long time addict of anything technological, he has decided to turn his acquired skills into a business. "I love finding out how things work and fixing things -anything from computers, cars, phones and I love making circuits for generators".

Callan was born and educated in Melbourne. After finishing school he moved to Queensland, working in hospitality for 18 months before returning to enrol in a diesel mechanic apprenticeship program. The next ten years were spent as a professional DJ until he decided "it was too much of a good thing" and resumed work in the field in which he had qualified. A back injury was to interrupt furthering this career but he had discovered the technical and computer side of the business really appealed to him. During his prolonged recovery and unable to work, he tapped into telecommunications and network engineering gaining valuable experience .

Two years ago he met his fiancée Di who at the time was working at Chopstix. He soon tired of travelling to Lorne to see her and moved down permanently. When she took him home to South Africa to meet her parents, he took her to the top of Table Mountain in Capetown and proposed. "Lucky for me she said yes."

Callan's second passion is writing music. He plays the guitar. Before his injury, he loved water sports and snowboarding and rues the possibility he may not get to do any of them again. He has visited many countries and looks forward to the future when he and Di can travel together.

Since living in Lorne he has been using his knowledge to help locals with Mobile Phones, TV and aerial installations and IT issues. Willing to assist the community, he has already been helpful at The Men's Shed.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

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| 10 | Putuparri and the Rainmakers (m) presented by the Surf Coast Shire to celebrate NAIDOC Week. Free event. Lorne Cinema at 2pm |
| 23 | Lorne vs Otway Districts football and netball , at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm |
| 30 | Lorne Comedy Night , Lorne – Aireys Inlet P-12 College presents a comedy night at the Lorne Surf Club. Starring Rusty Berther (MC), Damian Callinan, Jeff Green, The Decent People Comedy Improv. Doors open 6:30pm, show starts 8:00pm tickets \$35 from trybooking.com/210160 |

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

COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



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