

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

The first sighting of Whales on the coast is always a talking point among locals and visitors alike. Wednesday last week saw the first arrival of one the big mammals in the heart of Louttit Bay. The annual migratory pattern of these magnificent animals has begun again and what has been apparent of recent years has been their frequent appearance in good numbers.

For those who have an interest, the website www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au has a comprehensive Whale sightings section logging the time, date and location of all sightings along the Great Ocean Road corridor. For the real enthusiasts, you can also subscribe to the "Whale Sighting Alert" and receive updates via email whenever there is a Whale sighting on the coast.

Committee for Lorne members have been busy representing the town in working with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and their consultants as they finalise their Investment Logic Mapping as part of the preparation of the Business Case for future funding for the development of the Point Grey precinct. The consultants have a difficult task in presenting a "commercial case" for obtaining Government Funding for the site. I look forward to reporting the recommendations as they are developed.

Great to see that the Consultants have started work on the Stribling Reserve Master Plan and happy to share a designated responsive web address for the project. Go to www.surfcoastconversations.com.au/stribling-reserve-masterplan and join the conversation to share your thoughts and ideas.

Images across local media of the past week have highlighted the regions sports grounds suffering under the harsh winter conditions. The photographs of the Birregurra oval and their football game against South Colac had payers of both sides hardly identifiable to their loyal supporters as all were covered from head to toe in mud. Similar scenes were witnessed across the entire region over past weeks as solid winter rains have taken their toll.

For those at Lorne's home game last Saturday, one could be excused for thinking that the rain on the coast must not have been as constant, as was experienced elsewhere. The Stribling Reserve Oval was in excellent winter condition, boasting a full, all over grass cover as compared to other regional grounds. I noted a social media post last weekend from the Lorne Football and Netball Clun expressing their gratitude for the condition of the ground.

The Management Committee of the Stribling Reserve, led by Peter Spring, worked in Partnership with the Surf Coast Shire to turn around the playing surface of the oval from the conditions experienced twelve months ago and it has been appreciated by all. Early in the season many were keen to wait and see the effects of a long wet winter before passing comment on the success or otherwise of the new surface. It's great to be able to report the success of the project and reinforce the thanks as expressed by all ground users of recent times.

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne



NEW MASTER PLAN FOR STRIBLING RESERVE

Recently the Shire initiated a project to develop a new, updated Master Plan for Stribling Reserve, Lorne. It is over 14 years since the last Master Plan was produced. Since its construction in the late 80s, the Stribling Reserve Leisure Centre has been a core asset for the community of Lorne.

There is an incredible variety of uses for the Reserve, including indoor and outdoor sports, exercise classes, use of the commercial kitchen and Medevac by helicopter to name a few. The current facilities at Stribling Reserve include the oval, cricket pitch, netball court, indoor stadium, multi-purpose room and the Men's Shed.

There has been significant growth in the demand to use these facilities. The Lorne Football & Netball Club now fields four football teams and six netball teams. This demand, together with the extensive use of facilities by the Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College, has highlighted that there are some deficiencies in the current facilities.

The process to develop the Master Plan will be to identify the gaps between current facilities and anticipated needs and to identify what other features and facilities need to be considered to ensure that Stribling Reserve remains a vital component of community infrastructure well into the future. The new Master Plan will be the "roadmap" for Stribling Reserve for the next 15-20 years. Stribling Reserve is a major community asset and we wish it to continue to be so.

The project is being run in true partnership between the community and the Surf Coast Shire Council. For instance, the Committee for Lorne is the Project Owner and the Shire is the Project Sponsor. This is a collaborative partnership to ensure that what is planned for Stribling Reserve is a true reflection of the community's aspirations.

There will be extensive consultation with all user groups and with the community in general. In the coming weeks, we will inform you of the ways in which you can participate. We want to ensure that as many members of the Lorne Community as possible have the opportunity to provide input to the Master Planning process. We are also looking for your innovative ideas as to the type activities that could be supported within Stribling Reserve which are not currently available; exercise circuit, gym, meeting rooms etc. to name a few.

If you have a comment or idea that you would like to include in the Master Planning process, you can do so by contacting the Project Manager at Surf Coast Shire, Susan Green, on (03) 5261 0836 or by email at sgreen@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

You can also make comment and follow the progress of the Master Plan via the Surf Coast Shire's web page - www.surfcoastconversations.com.au/stribling-reserve-masterplan.

Our goal is to ensure that Stribling Reserve continues to be a great community asset to Lorne. Your involvement in the Master Planning will help us to achieve this.

**Peter Spring
Chairman
Stribling Reserve
Committee of Management**



PHIL WALSH

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Phil, as current "controller" of the SES Lorne Unit and an active member of CFA since 2007, not to mention member and past treasurer of the Surf Club and member of the Aquatic Club and more, he is to say the least, fully occupied.

His background as a practising accountant has made him a particularly highly valued and sought after Lorne resident.

"I didn't really want to be an accountant to be honest. When I finished my matriculation in Melbourne, in November 1974, I had to get a job. I took myself off to the big green Australian Government office in Spring Street, sat their exam and within a month was offered the choice of a position at the Tax Office or the Post Office." Phil chose the Tax Office. It soon became obvious that to advance his career he needed a degree and proceeded to study accounting part time. Thirteen years later he resigned and opened his own Melbourne Tax Agency in 1989.

In 1977, with the combined effort of a builder and his father, a retirement home in Lorne for his parents was completed. Phil's family has been coming to Lorne for holidays ever since. However, with the Internet allowing his business to become mobile, he moved to live here permanently in 2006.

Phil's hopes for his sons to take over his practice are not looking bright since both, as keen members of the Surf Club, became interested in first aid. One is already a paramedic and the other studying to be.

Currently, Phil is enjoying a new dimension of community involvement - the Festival of Performing Arts. He loves dealing with the people connected to the genre, the management aspect and all the new skills required to help produce the September event.

How true is the adage ... if you want something done, ask a busy person?

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

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

AUGUST

6 **Lorne vs Simpson football and netball,** at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

SEPTEMBER

2-4 **FOPA Lorne Festival of Performing Arts,** 6th annual multi-arts festival. The event showcases established and emerging artists across a range of genres including; dance, comedy, cabaret, music, theatre, visual arts and spoken word. Various locations around town. More info here: www.fopa.com.au

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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