

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

August is meant to be a time of the year when the coast is dormant, a month on the calendar that boasts no school holidays or long weekends but this year, activity in Lorne has proved to be the exception to the rule. Whether it be preparation for the upcoming Festival of the Performing Arts (FOPA) on the first weekend in September, the extensive works at our Foodworks Supermarket, our only service station changeover or the Lorne Dolphins having senior and reserves football and netballers preparing for the 2016 CDFL finals, it's a very busy month.

I have watched with great interest the ongoing works at our local supermarket as the façade of the store has taken on a total new look and enlarged the internal spaces and functionality of our only Supermarket. What has impressed me most has been the consideration given by the owners and their team to the needs and demands of the Lorne Community. For those familiar with the ever-increasing demands of occupational health and safety regulations, it must be a logistical nightmare to maintain the hours of operation they have successfully been able to achieve.

With a project like this comes inconvenience, but what has been noticeable our locals are far more appreciative than our visitors. Having listened to recent comments and their experience of having to visit a work site for their "wine and cheese" didn't get much ear time from me. Unlike our suburban neighbors who have choice of product, store and hours, we here in Lorne are lucky and appreciative to have a store that remains open year round, contributes in a such big way to our community and goes out of their way to keep their doors open during a difficult time – well done to all!!!

Similarly our local petrol station closing its doors and BP are handing over to a new operator. Different environment to the Supermarket but nevertheless the operators are presented with another suite of challenges. To be without fuel is less than ideal, but the short term pain is surely worth it for the longer term gain. What seems ironical is that in growing up in Lorne I vividly remember four service stations from which we could choose, with two on the ocean side of Mountjoy Parade, one at the supermarket and one in the current location. From those older than me, I am told of even more before my time!

Critically, we need to spread the word, not only locally but far and wide to ensure our visitors are well prepared for the short term inconvenience. Whether it be our local residents, FOPA friends, non resident property owners, or visitors, we need to get the message to come prepared. On behalf of the Committee for Lorne we are trying to work with Vic Roads to carry this message on the elevated digital road signs – stay tuned!

*Ian Stewart*

Ian Stewart  
Chairman  
Committee for Lorne



## ACCOMMODATING LORNE'S FUTURE

There has been much discussion in the past about the need for a range of options for affordable accommodation in Lorne. There are a number of different needs to be met including:

- Provision of affordable accommodation for families who want to work and live in Lorne
- Rental accommodation for people wanting to live and work in Lorne
- Seasonal accommodation to provide for additional employees in peak seasons

As part of the process of trying to solve this issue, the Committee for Lorne has been active in a number of areas. The Committee is participating in a research project initiated by the University of Western Sydney to investigate the use of Community Land Trusts as an entity that could manage land and housing for the purposes of providing affordable accommodation.

With the assistance of Professor Graham Brawn, a Lorne homeowner and Professor Emeritus in Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Melbourne University, there has already been one design workshop involving a number of students who assessed the situation in Lorne and developed some design options which could be considered for providing affordable accommodation.

Recently, Graham conducted the second of these design workshops involving members of the community in the three day event. This second studio was set in Lorne using land in town as an example of areas that might be redeveloped in ways in which essential worker housing sites might accrue to a form of Community Land Trust that Nicola Muxworthy has been championing for a some time, and help the Committee for Lorne in its

aspirations to increase the permanent population from 1000 to 1500 over the next few years.

The 17 students who participated in the recent workshop are in their final semester and taking a Design Thesis Studio that Graham is leading on the topic of Form and Materiality. The focus of the studio was on designing for permanent and long term rental living in a coastal setting and in an area of high bush fire risk. Hence the title of the studio: different FORMS of Housing, from family to retirees to singles, and housing that would be built of MATERIALS that are resistant to ember attack in the case of bush fires sweeping through Lorne again. The team spent a weekend in Lorne, visiting sites and familiarising the students with the town's setting, character and lifestyles.

Many members of the community, old and young, gave up their time to meet with the students and offer their insights and experiences in order to provide the students with a real understanding of the issues based upon the experiences of the community.

The results of the research by the team from the University of Western Sydney into the viability of the Community Land Trust model for providing "affordable" housing in Lorne is coming to a close. The CfL's plan is to use those results and the examples of possible multiple housing in some of the Rural Conservation Zones that surround Lorne was investigated by students from the University last year. Together with this year's student work from the Design Workshop, there is sufficient material and knowledge to start a serious conversation in Lorne of how to move forward in solving this vexing issue of undersupply of affordable permanent housing and long term rental accommodation for those who want to work and live in Lorne.



KATIE WALKER

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

**The mystery is now over about what's happening in the new building beside The Pavilion on the foreshore – HAH (Health and Hire) Lornebeach has opened and is operating**

An initiative by Katie Walker and on his days off husband, Leon, with a mission is to sell and serve food they make themselves from local produce. This includes their own organic chocolate made from scratch using cocoa nibs and natural flavours. The "Hire" part of the business offers bikes and surf boards for rent.

In 2001 Katie left the UK armed with a qualification in Events and Tourism. She travelled around Europe for seven years working in management positions, particularly at ski resorts, until in 2007 she decided to come to Australia.

Ten years ago she arrived in Lorne, set up camp at Allenvale and found employment at The Arab Café. Her parents had always had restaurants in which she can't remember ever not helping. She was well equipped.

Her future in Lorne was determined one Easter Sunday when a friend took her to The Aquatic Club. Not only did she meet lots of new people but also Leon Walker, whom she would later marry. Katie started her own Lorne events company, mainly managing weddings at local venues. In her spare time she played in a local basketball team.

Katie and Leon married and had two children. For some time they had been investigating business possibilities that they could do together so when the opportunity arose to create Health and Hire, they seized it. "The business will keep evolving as we see what works." Right now they are opening every Wednesday night for an eat in or take away curry night. The last two have been fully booked.

During winter they are open seven days for breakfast and lunch, and serve it on tables Leon has made from wood originally out of Eddie Babbington's old family mill. In summer they will open for dinner, no doubt with assistance from her parents who are coming from Spain to enjoy their grandchildren.

CW

### LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

#### AUGUST

21 **Stribling Reserve Master Plan,**  
Open workshop to help us understand the community expectations for the future of the Reserve. 8.45am to 9.00am to 11.00am at the Stribling Reserve and would love to see you there.

#### SEPTEMBER

2-4 **FOPA Lorne Festival of Performing Arts,**  
Sixth 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: [fopa.com.au](http://fopa.com.au)

11 **Amy's Gran Fondo,**  
Starting in Lorne, the new course takes riders through the Otway Ranges, along a breathtaking stretch of the Great Ocean Road, before finishing on the main street in Lorne. More details here: [amysgranfondo.org.au](http://amysgranfondo.org.au)

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



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P.O Box 168, Lorne 3232. [info@committeeforlorne.org.au](mailto:info@committeeforlorne.org.au) [www.cfl.org.au](http://www.cfl.org.au) Phone: 0438 843 258

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