

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



JOHN BLISS

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

**After John and Bernadette married, they continued Bernadette's family tradition since the 1940's, of coming to Lorne every year for summer holidays.**

When John's father in law, Phil Danaher retired, he wanted to live permanently in Lorne so in 1982, Bernadette, John and Phil bought a house together in Lorne. As Bernadette was employed in education and had term holidays and John ran his own business, they managed to spend the majority of weekends and school holidays in Lorne.

John was born and lived for the early part of his life in Newport and attended Sacred Heart Primary School and Williamstown High School. Unfortunately John's father was involved in a car accident and was unable to continue working, so John left school in year 10 and then worked to support his family. He was employed by an insurance company until his marriage to Bernadette, he then formed an office cleaning business, which ran successfully until his retirement in 2005

John and Bernadette have been married for 46 years and have two daughters, Lisa and Nikki. Lisa and husband Peter Bracken live in Lorne. Nikki and partner Early Darcy and their two children Karah and Kobe also live in Lorne. Before living in Lorne, Bernadette and John lived in Keilor, then Essendon, where both children attended school. When the two children left home, they lived for a while in Travencore.

John loves playing and watching golf, follows Essendon football club and enjoys the odd flutter on horse racing. Bernadette and John like to travel regularly, have caravanned around Australia twice, have travelled to USA, driven through the UK, Europe and Canada. Also on their itinerary was cruising to Alaska and trips to the North and South islands of New Zealand. In 2017 they plan to travel to Greece and Croatia.

John is a member of the Lions Club of Lorne, Lorne Golf Cub, Lorne Aquatic Club, Lorne Football Club and Lorne Men's Shed. Bernadette is also an active member of the Lorne Lions Club and is kept busy helping organise weekend markets and the popular Easter Art Show.

John likes to work on their garden and adores looking after their 4 year old grandson who John said, "is such a funny little man and always has them in fits of laughter".

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## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

28 **Falls Music & Arts Festival Lorne**, Dec 28 - Jan 1

### JANUARY

6 **Mountain to Surf Run**, Lorne at 8:30am  
7 **Pier to Pub Swim**, Lorne

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

## LORNE MEN'S SHED VS THE COCKATOOS

### PUT YOUR BET ON THE MEN'S SHED!



Men's Shed President, Allan Walls (Santa) presiding over the workers delivering Bin Gravity Locks for Christmas

We are all aware of the enormous problems caused by sulphur-crested cockatoos getting into waste bins around Lorne. The Surf Coast Shire is implementing strategies designed to tackle the problem of cockatoos by ensuring that waste bins are secure and not accessible to the birds.

The first strategy is to ensure that waste bins on the main street are secure. In order to do that, the Shire will be replacing waste bins on Mountjoy Parade with "Big Belly" waste bins which incorporate a solar powered compactor which increases capacity to over 600 litres, four times the capacity of a regular waste receptacle. The most important feature is that the bins are "cockie proof". There is a set of "Big Belly" bins, which were installed over a year ago for evaluation, near Kosta's corner. Following the trial, Shire has now committed to install a further six sets and hopefully, GORCC will follow suit and replace open waste receptacles on the Foreshore.

The second of the Shire's strategies to eliminate the problem of cockatoos getting into rubbish is to ensure that the lids on domestic waste bins are securely locked, preventing the cockatoos from opening the lid, distributing rubbish to the four corners of Lorne and dining on inappropriate food. In order to do this, Shire proposes to install "Gravity Locks" on every domestic waste bin in Lorne. The Gravity Lock is designed so that the lid of the bin must be unlocked with a key in order for the homeowner to deposit rubbish in the bin. The lock prevents cockatoos from opening the bin.

On rubbish collection day, when the bin is placed on the road reserve, it is still locked, thus preventing the cockatoos from "bingeing". When the waste collection truck picks up the bin and tips it upside down to empty the contents, the lock automatically releases when the bin is in this position. When the bin is put back on the ground, it automatically locks again. The keys supplied for locks are all the same and it's important to lock the bin lid and remove the key from the lock when your place the bin out for collection.

It is expected that these two strategies will have a dramatic effect on the availability of food for the cockatoo population.

Installing another six sets of Big Belly bins is a job for the Shire. Installing a Gravity Lock on over 2,500 domestic waste bins in Lorne is an entirely different job. And that's where the Lorne Men's Shed steps in.

The Shire has contracted the Lorne & District Men's Shed to undertake the installation of the Gravity Locks.

The Shire has provided the locks and also provided

the Shedders with appropriate training in installation procedures and relevant safety procedures. It is noteworthy that the diversity of skills and work experience of the Shedders meant that they were able to contribute to the design of a "template" for installation of the lock and to source its production in order to streamline the process of installation.

Now that the Shedders are fully familiar with the installation process and have the new tooling, we are off and running with the Gravity Lock installation. After just a couple of weeks, the process of fitting the lock has been refined and the Shedders are working efficiently as teams. The result is that the time to fit a lock is now down to just over 5 minutes.

We have teams of 6-8 Shedders working over three weekdays and Saturday mornings. Monday is the busiest day because the bins have just been emptied and we try to get as many completed as possible with two teams working. Other shedders cover the rest of the days. The Shedders donate their time, be it all day, a morning or an afternoon.

Our system at present is to collect the bins and bring them to the shed for fitting. Now that the word is out, local residents are collecting their own and their neighbours' bins and bringing them down to the Shed. This is also speeding up the process. It's also interesting to see the number of people who just want to "drop in" and see the Shed in operation.

The Surf Coast Shire have provided a set of plans of Lorne showing the numbered house lots and we mark off each location when the bin has been fitted with the gravity lock.

The members of the Lorne & District Men's Shed are now well underway on an important project for the whole of the Lorne community. The cockatoos are in for a big surprise over the next couple of months as they find fewer and fewer opportunities to "lift the lid".

On a side note, it is wonderful to see the number of men from the Lorne community participating in the project. On any given day when the Shed is open, it's likely that there will be in excess of a dozen men helping out on the project in a variety of ways and sharing a "cuppa" in the breaks. It's different men on different days so we are very pleased that the Lorne Men's Shed is providing this opportunity for involvement and camaraderie to so many men in our community. After all, that's what the Men's Shed is all about.

**Allan Walls  
President  
Lorne & District Men's Shed**

**The last week before Christmas - who would ever believe that another year is closing down so fast? Whether it's our local tradies, business operators or community supporters, the countdown of the final days to Christmas Day is a stressful time for many. Whether it's the new home or the renovation that needs to be completed before the owners arrive or the summer stock being delivered for the peak season, the deadlines are all but here.**

It's great to see the energy around a core group of local traders actioning plans for the summer ahead. In a first for Lorne, a number of retailers will be extending their trading hours until 9pm every Thursday evening through until the 2nd of February. Commencing tonight, December 22, our local operators commence their "Shop Local, Shop Late" campaign.

We are so lucky in our small town to have the variety of shops that we do, but we need to support them by shopping local and this is an extra opportunity to confirm your support and reinforce that we are right behind our local businesses in the true community spirit that is such a big part of Lorne. Lets hope that summer 2017 is a bumper year for all, with road closures and bushfires a thing of the past.

As the peak period approaches its not only our retailers gearing up for the busy time ahead but our local clubs have also been actively preparing their facilities for the large influx of summer visitors. On Saturday last it was great to see a large contingent of Lorne Country Club members banding together to fine tune their local facilities at the Country Club.

Don't forget the upcoming consultation sessions with key members of our local community set down for Thursday and Friday 19 & 20 of January 2017. The objective of these sessions are to help build buy in and support for the Committee for Lorne's Aspirations Plan and to document how, now and in the future, each group's work is contributing to the overall achievement of the aspirational strategies.

As the curtain begins to come down on 2016, we sit to celebrate Christmas this year knowing we have lost more than our fair share of Community members and for many it will be the first Christmas celebration for them without their loved ones. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you all, just as they are for our neighbours at Separation Creek and Wye River

On behalf of the Committee for Lorne, I wish all our many supporters a very merry Christmas and a special thanks to Cynthia Wynhoven and Peter Spring who have both been tireless in ensuring this community page is with you every week - Merry Christmas.

*Ian Stewart*

Ian Stewart  
Chairman  
Committee for Lorne

COMMITTEE  
FOR LORNE



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