

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



JOHN MORTIMORE

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

John was born in Torquay, England and met future wife, Maureen there. A Uni friend suggested a move to Aussie and one cold wet day in the middle of a miserable English summer, they made up their minds to come.

John joined Streets Ice Cream in Sydney as Product Manager and then moved to Cadbury-Schweppes in Melbourne as Group Marketing Manager where he was responsible for marketing products such as "Cadbury Dairy Milk" - and became very popular with his children's friends!

In 1986 John was appointed General Manager of Tattersall's, Australia's principal Lottery and Gaming Company. He was responsible for all aspects of Tattersall's commercial operations and launched new lotteries like "Powerball".

Soon after arriving in Melbourne, John and Maureen drove along the Great Ocean Road to Lorne and instantly fell in love with the coastal village. They saved up and, in 1995, Don Stewart found them a tiny log cabin to buy in Topp Street. They later "sold" the cabin itself to St. John Sutton for \$1 - which John says St. John still owes him! That enabled them to build a house on the cleared land big enough for them and their children, Nicole and Jason, and grandchildren.

John retired from Tattersall's in 2003, and formed his own consulting and property management company. He was also invited to join various Boards and, in 2009, became a director of the Lorne Community Hospital. His 7 years service there had a bearing on lifting the hospital's financial performance and placing it in the financially sound position it is today.

John is an enthusiastic member of the Lorne Men's Shed, and is helping with the "Cockie Bin Project". He's also a keen fisherman and has fished around the world in places like, Tonga, NZ, Canada and Darwin and the Northern Territory Coast - and Lorne of course!

Maureen may outdo him though. In a couple of weeks, she is taking her grand daughter to Northern Finland to experience ice fishing. Here's hoping they cut a large enough hole to land a big one!

GF

## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

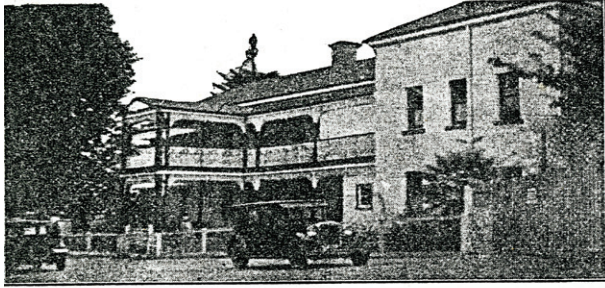
### JANUARY

- 6 **Mountain to Surf Run**, Lorne at 8:30am
- 7 **Pier to Pub Swim**, Lorne
- 22-22 **Deans Marsh Dog Trials**, at the Deans Marsh Reserve
- 22 **Vivaldi Concerti Virtuosi**, Lorne St Cuthbert's Church
- 27-29 **Cadel Evens Great Ocean Road Race**
- 28 **Lorne Foreshore Market**, Lorne

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

238 Victorian Country Hotel and Guest House Guide—1937–38.

**“ERSKINE HOUSE”** (‘Phone: Lorne 1) **LORNE**  
MILD WINTER CLIMATE.



Containing 165 Rooms, including large cool dining room and Cafe, Ballroom, Lounge 72 ft. x 32 ft., Ladies' sitting room, Billiard and Smoking rooms, hot and cold water bathrooms, refrigerator and ice-making plant, Underground sewerage, Electric Light.

Bowling Green. Six Croquet Lawns, including one "A" Grade Lawn.  
Five Grass, One Asphalt, and Two Concrete Tennis Courts.  
Miniature 9-hole Golf Links.  
Safe Surf Bathing a minute's walk from the house.  
Lock-up Motor Garages.

Service Motor Cars connect with "Flyer" at Geelong Railway Station.

Front View "Erskine House"  
The Ideal Pleasure and Health Resort!

**TARIFF: Xmas—From 15/- to 17/6 per day. Summer—From 12/- to 15/- per day. Winter £3/3/- per week.**

Write or 'Phone:— **THE MANAGER, "Erskine House," Lorne**  
**THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SEASIDE RESORT IN AUSTRALIA**

# A HOLIDAY IN LORNE: A REFLECTION

At the Committee for Lorne, we've decided to take a break over Christmas and New Year. However, we thought that we could further develop the idea of Lorne's 'sense of place' by looking at what Lorne meant to people in another era.

Keith Dunstan, for many years a journalist with the Herald Sun passed away in 2013. He wrote many humorous books observing the quirkiness of the world and people around him. In his autobiography, "No Brains At All", he recounted his memories of a family holiday in Lorne in 1939. It talks of the grandeur of Erskine House and also talks of something which is in the consciousness of all who live in or visit Lorne today - bushfire. For his holiday in Lorne was in 1939; the year of Black Friday. Keith writes:

"There was one last glorious summer holiday in 1939 before I went to boarding school, the last of an era. Every year, dad booked the entire family into Erskine House, a large, gracious guesthouse at Lorne, which had been there since the 1880's. We stayed there from immediately after Christmas until the first week of February, although dad sometimes returned to the city and came down at weekends. Erskine House had its own gate right on the surf beach, its own grass tennis courts, bowling greens, croquet lawns, ballroom, billiard room and even its own 9 hole golf course. There were both ancient areas and modern.

The expedition to Lorne was always a grand affair. In the early days we went in an Essex sedan. Several suitcases would be strapped to both running boards, others lashed on the luggage carrier at the rear. By 1939 our travelling had been refined. Dad sent a Herald and Weekly Times van on ahead. This was loaded not only with luggage, but also with enough whisky, gin, vermouth and beer to last a month. There was also ice. It was tricky trying to find ice for a whisky out in the bungalows so dad also carted ice to Lorne in large insulated boxes. This way he was able to entertain in style. The drama and magic of Lorne was the Great Ocean Road, which started at Anglesea and twisted, turned its way along steep cliffs to Apollo Bay and on to Peterborough. It was completed in the depression years around 1936 to become one of the most spectacular coastal roads on earth. In the 1930's it was narrow and required very careful driving.

At Erskine House we were always a large community of several hundred. All meals were provided, breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus morning and afternoon tea, in the dining room. Bells called us to meals. The week's program

included tournaments for bowls, tennis, golf, croquet and table tennis, complete with a treasure hunt and a sand castle competition for the children.

Another important event was the Erskine House photograph, which took place at least once every summer. The entire complement of guests gathered on the lawn in front of the verandah at 11.00 am. Carefully, the photographer arranged us in appropriate rows. The camera was on a wooden tripod, with a black cloth shade for the photographer's head, and it had an extraordinary lens that operated by a clockwork motor. The lens moved in a 45 degree arc so that it could produce a panorama of the guests. My cousin George Farmer and I always made sure that we were positioned in the left hand corner of the group. Then, as soon as the lens started whirring, we sprinted around the back and got into position on the right hand side of the group. Somewhere in the family archives there is still a picture of the Lorne gathering that curiously depicts twin boys on either side of the group.

There were other holidays at Erskine House after 1939, but never again was it the same. There was no formal dressing for dinner, and the balls, the tournaments, the elaborate weekly program were all gone. After the war, the crowd that could afford to holiday at Erskine House went elsewhere. For the Tooraker's it became the fashion to have a second house at Sorrento or Portsea, so that the people who drank and supped with each other all the working year continued to drink and sup together through the summer break, not having to meet anyone else.

Of course, Victorian holidays should never be in January. Schools should take their recess in late February or March when the weather is mild, soft, dry and sublime. In January it takes on all sorts of ingenious variations, both hot and cold, designed to torture campers. In January 1971, we had a week of rain, with southerly winds blowing straight from the Antarctic. A friend looked at our little house, watched me trying to prepare a barbecue under an umbrella in the near blizzard and commented, "Boy, what a dump!"

With thanks to Lorne Historical Society



An example of one of the famous photographs showing the same man in dinner jacket and bow tie standing at the left hand end of the photo and seated at the right hand end



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @Committee4Lorne

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

Happy New Year to all - and what a colourful start it's been in so many different ways. The diversity of the multicultural crowds that enjoyed Lorne on Christmas Day, day visitors swelling to numbers not seen for many years, our local traders offering Thursday evening shopping and the return of the Falls concert to its "spiritual home".

In sharing experiences with local traders, the excitement in seeing so many visitors to Lorne and trading results that have eclipsed previous years were a common theme and their optimism for 2017 is a positive sign of hopefully what lies ahead. With Pier2Pub and Mountain to Surf, a brilliant weekend weather forecast and Lorne will "splitting at the seams" once again.

While the numbers to town have stretched and tested all our resources to the max, spare a thought for our magnificent team at our Lorne Community Hospital. You have all no doubt heard of the incident up at the Falls Festival, their first major incident in over twenty years of operation, to which our local Community Hospital became a major supporter.

Following the unfortunate incident of the "crowd crush" the Falls Festival, medical teams combined so effectively with out local first class Community Hospital. Last Friday evening just before midnight the Lorne Community Hospital went into emergency management mode, calling in extra staff, implementing their code brown emergency procedures and for CEO Kate Gillan and her team, it was "all hands were on deck" and they treated and triaged all who needed care - Brilliant!!

Being the parent of child in attendance for the fourth time, and another looking to attend for the first time next year, their were some anxious moments as sketchy reports started to filter back to Lorne via social media and the coastal grapevine. Having had the experience of previously attending the festival and viewing all the facilities, including medical, I felt a level of comfort that an incident could be well managed if ever it required to be - and from my perspective it certainly was!

With the new year come all the resolutions, many of which revolve around food weight and diet, well the timing is perfect to ensure you get 2017 off on the right foot. Kristen McMaster, Masters in Nutrition and Diploma in fitness, is delivering health and nutrition workshops in Lorne from next Monday. For booking and further information go to [www.foodstudiesaustralia.com.au/](http://www.foodstudiesaustralia.com.au/) events or call Kristen on 0413 777 794.

Enjoying my early morning walks along the Lorne beach at first light is a great opportunity to get a first hand understanding of the volumes of rubbish and discarded beach equipment that is left for our local agencies to clean up. We are at a time of the year when rubbish appears to be the media highlight of most commercial television stations whether it is at Coogee, Sydney or Federation Square. From my perspective, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (well supported by the volunteers of Lornecare) has done a great job here in Lorne.

*Ian Stewart*

Ian Stewart  
Chairman  
Committee for Lorne

COMMITTEE  
FOR LORNE