

LORNE



GARY ALLEN

COMMITTEE FOR LORNE PAST AND FUTURE

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Gary's grandparents' families (Allen and Anderson) came to Lorne in the 1870's - the Allens as orchardists and the Andersons as brick makers.

Born in 1946 and raised by loving parents Norm and Kath, Gary and his sisters Judith and Barbara had a wonderful childhood in Lorne.

Educated at the Lorne School and then Belmont High School (as the Lorne School in the 1950's finished at year 8), Gary completed Economics and Education degrees at Melbourne University. He taught economics at Melbourne High School and became principal of the Lorne School in 1990 and then in 1997 principal of Ararat Secondary College.

When principal at the Lorne School the school community amalgamated with the Airey's Inlet Primary School, expanded the bus routes to welcome students from a broader area, expanded the footprint of the school by incorporating the Lorne RSL building and pioneered imaginative curriculum initiatives, including; vocational courses in hospitality, the expansion of music teaching, the introduction of French and Indonesian, the beginning of student written musical productions and multi-aged classes across upper primary and lower secondary levels.

After retiring from teaching Gary took a leadership role in state and national rural education advocacy, worked at Ballarat University and ventured into private enterprise in the cabaret scene in Melbourne.

Since his return to Lorne he has become involved in the Lorne Historical Society, the Lorne Bowls Club, the Lorne Community Hospital Board, the Festival for the Performing Arts and the committee of the Lorne Lions Village. Under Gary's leadership the Historical Society is up-grading its room and digitising the photographic collection and the Bowls Club has more members playing pennant, with two teams winning premierships last year. There are plans for lighting the green to improve access to bowling for community members in the winter months.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 27-29 **Cadel Evens Great Ocean Road Race**
- 28 **Lorne Foreshore Market**, Lorne
- 28 **Australia Day Tennis Tournament**, Lorne Country Club at 9am to 1 pm. Visitors welcome, fee \$20. Morning Tea and Prizes. For more information, John Ford 0418 372 709.
- 28 **Summer Gumbo Festival**, Qdos Arts from 6pm. A Southern feast of blues, jazz, arts, food and drink. Phone 0438 742 095 for bookings

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

Last week, the Committee for Lorne held two significant events; its AGM and a series of workshops of which I have written in my column.

It's therefore appropriate that we use this page to report to the community on the AGM and to reflect on the many initiatives that the Committee for Lorne have led over four years; some now complete and many still ongoing.

Prior to that, it's a good time to reiterate the structure of the Committee for Lorne and its purpose. The Committee for Lorne is a not for profit, member network that connects and unites a cross section of the Lorne ward's leaders representing organisations, community groups, residents and home owners to work together to ensure a thriving and prosperous future for the greater Lorne ward: economically, environmentally and socially.

To achieve our purpose it is intended that the CfL executive comprise the following community representatives.

- Special Interest Groups
Lorne Business Tourism and Traders Association x 1
We Love Lorne x 1
Friends of Lorne x 1
Lorne Sculpture x 1
- Sporting Clubs i.e. (football, golf, tennis, bowls, surf club etc.) x 3
- Community Representatives (i.e. Lorne School, Lorne Hospital) x 3
- Non-resident property owners x 1
- Deans Marsh/Moggs Creek x 1

The goal is to operate at a full membership of twelve and endeavour to have an equal gender balance.

Here are some of my observations on 2016 that I reported at the AGM.

The CfL is still so young, its boundaries and terms of reference constantly up for discussion, its communication platforms sometimes lacking. Too often, too much being left to too few and always the odd misunderstanding as to the motivations of those that passionately endeavour to lead from the front. If there was a message that came from the AGM last week, words similar to the above would best describe my personal view on the activities of the CfL throughout 2016.

As we embark on what will be our 5th year, even through tougher times, our achievements to date have been noteworthy. I have listed them later in this article. I accepted nomination as continuing Chair, but reinforced that for the continuing strength of the organisation, change will be required and I am more than ready to stand aside and passionately support that change.

I emphasised that 2016 certainly was not our best year in a number of ways, and yet in some others it was. It was year in which we recruited two of Lorne's most capable professionals; Lorne Community Hospital CEO Kate Gillan and Lorne School Principal Karen Biggelaar, both valuable members of our executive team and both important representatives of community aspirations.

It was a year in which communication back to our community reached its lowest levels; our community lunches didn't exist and the work being done behind the scenes was not receiving the recognition and public sharing that it rightly deserved – something I was prepared to cop on the chin!

In accepting the nomination for year 5, my goal is to make 2017 our best yet and be in a position to proudly hand the reins to a successor. In moving forward, we now have what I believe to be the most robust, representative committee since our inception in 2012;

Chairman: Ian Stewart,
Vice Chairman: Peter Spring,
Executive Committee: Carly Enticott, Karen Biggelaar, Kate Gillan, Tony Peddie, Graeme Norton, Ian Brown, Chris Tutungi, Tony Elder, Alain Purnell, Graham Brawn and Invited Guest: Cr Clive Goldsworthy.

It was great to see two new members, Tony Elder and Graeme Norton, coming on board.

A year cannot go without special thanks to Cynthia Wynhoven and Surf Coast Shire Citizen of the year nominee Peter Spring, for their outstanding work in making the Committee for Lorne page a huge success throughout

The following is a list of the major projects and initiatives of the CfL since its inception.

- ✓ Twelve month planning process in creating Aspirations for Lorne document.
- ✓ Assisted (with L.B.T.A) in developing the Lorne Destination Action Plan with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism.
- Partnered with Monash University to analyse and

survey customer demands and satisfaction on the Great Ocean Road and Lorne - ongoing.

- ✓ Facilitated "Accommodating Lorne's Future Workshop"
- Partnered with University of Western Sydney as a "Pilot" program for a Community Land Trust - ongoing.
- Partnered with Melbourne University Faculty of Architecture to investigate models for affordable accommodation - ongoing.
- ✓ Actively lobbied for support/building the now complete junior playground at the netball courts.
- ✓ Worked with Emergency Services Commissioner through and following the Christmas 2015 fires to alert the community and provide weekly updates on the fire.
- ✓ Coordinate an Economic Recovery Plan as a follow up to the Christmas 2015 fires.
- Achieved \$35,000 in financial resources for promotion of Lorne Sculpture and other Arts events
- Achieved a further \$100,000 to enhance existing events through the next 12 months.
- ✓ Supported the Lorne School following changes to educational transport allowances and secured \$75,000 from the Hon. Terry Mulder to purchase a school bus.
- ✓ Actively participated in the Community Reference Group for the Point Grey Precinct.
- Following the initial recommended Draft Plan of a single dwelling precinct for Point Grey as preferred by GORRC, CfL representatives met with the Minister, the Hon. Ryan Smith to reinforce the desire of the Lorne Community for a two building precinct. Gained his support to have the GORRC proposal replaced with the Lorne community's preferred proposal.
- ✓ Actively lobbied with the Stribling Reserve Section 86 Committee to have restoration work completed on the surface of the oval following the 2015 failed works.
- ✓ Working with and supporting Lorne Community Hospital to assist where we can with their 10 year strategic plan.
- ✓ Instigated a "first ever" forum of the Government Agencies (Surf Coast Shire, GORCC, DWELP) that manage Lorne to coordinate an ongoing framework for communication for "Best Practice" management of Lorne.
- ✓ Identified current Master Plans in progress across all Government Agencies to ensure integration across land manager boundaries.
- ✓ Lobbied the Surf Coast Shire to allow the Committee for Lorne to own the Master Planning Process for the Stribling Reserve. This is a "Shire first" statutory planning initiative that hopefully will be a platform for future processes.
- ✓ Initiated a weekly "community page" in the Surf Coast Times.
- ✓ Lobbied and worked closely with our agencies to have the Mountjoy Parade banner flags erected after a 5 year delay.
- ✓ Lobbying to be a "Project Owner" for the review of the Lorne Strategy Plan 2003.
- ✓ Lobbying for a major review to child care facilities in Lorne.
- ✓ Working on a Surf Coast Shire working group to assist in delivering a more stream lined planning process with the Surf Coast Shire

One of the most important projects undertaken by the CfL was to develop a plan for what we felt was necessary to deliver a sustainable future for our community. With assistance from Surf Coast Shire, many hours of discussion and lots of community feedback we launched our "Aspirations" document in 2014 and it has been the guiding document from then onwards. If you would like to read the document, you can download a copy here: <http://tinyurl.com/cflaspirations>.

The Committee for Lorne is a viable organisation with sound credibility at State and Local Government levels and with strong relationships with Councillors and State and Federal Government representatives of all parties. We will continue to work for Lorne's future and we welcome your feedback.

**Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne**

A busy start to the New Year not only with the influx of our thousands of visitors and holiday maker but also for the Committee for Lorne (CfL) as they embark on what is likely to be their busiest and most productive year to date. Last week, was a ground breaking one for the Lorne Community as the CfL hosted a number of workshops with our community groups and organisations to summarise the current actions and future plans and how they are assisting to achieve Lorne's five Aspirational Strategies as per our Aspirations document 2014.

The follow up and the actions were slower than we had hoped but we needed to be considered in our approach and professional in our delivery. We were very fortunate to receive a Surf Coast Shire grant that enabled us to call for tenders subsequently engage the services of specialist consultant firm, Reos Partners, to guide the process and set the direction that we needed to follow.

We have been even more fortunate to have the hands on involvement of Reos Partners Director, long-time Lorne devotee and now local, Stephen Atkinson. The Atkinson family are an integral part of Lorne with Steve's father Peter a long serving GP to our community, brother Richie a local Paramedic. Stephen and his wife Jenn Brown, have been co-ordinating the junior movement in the Lorne Surf Club over recent years.

Steve's background and expertise is at a level that we are so privileged to be able to engage, and his local connection is the icing on the cake. Having worked with corporate, government and community service clients, Steve co-designs and creates interventions that tackle complex problems. For more than twenty years, as a management consultant, he has led assignments of strategic impact for numerous multinational corporations and government institutions in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong and the USA – needless to say we are so lucky to have Steve on board.

Having sat in on all focus group discussions, more as an observer than an active participant, I was fortunate to hear the views of many that I heard for the first time and in environments never before experienced. Firstly, there was the focus group that brought together all the leaders of our local sporting clubs in one solid session.

It was a strong vibrant session where our Clubs spoke openly about working in a more co-operative, sharing environment with each other for the betterment of the wider community.

Steve is now working on collating all the findings of the focus groups into one document. All participants across all clubs and organisations are invited on the 9th of February (mark it in your diary) to see and discuss the results of the work.

Following this workshop we also plan to engage Lorne's non-resident homeowners and others who love Lorne to contribute their views as well – a big year ahead!

Ian Stewart

**Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne**

