

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



LARA NICHOLLS

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The curator for the 2018 Lorne Sculpture Biennale, Lara Nicholls, was born in the Lorne Hospital in 1968. At the time her family owned the Arab Restaurant but when she was two years old they moved to Melbourne, where she grew up and was educated.

At Melbourne University, she graduated with a double major in art history. A year travelling Europe followed. On her return, Lara was appointed to manage a city art gallery, until the desire to study further took her back to University to pursue a Master's degree. She returned to Trinity College as a resident tutor and curator of their art collection, which she catalogued and exhibited at the University in 1997. She completed her research in France as a resident at the Cité des Arts, Paris.

When she returned to Melbourne, Sotheby's offered her a position as an Australian painting specialist, where she worked for three years until her children came along. She began a private art consultancy and worked in her family's financial services business. When that chapter closed in 2010, art endured and she returned to the fine art auction world at Deutsch and Hackett as their head of corporate collections.

2013 was a turning point. Lara questioned whether the commercial art world was really her preferred career path as she longed to return to the curatorial fold. Sacrificing a comfortable lifestyle in her home city, she relocated with her three daughters to Canberra to become the assistant curator of Australian painting and sculpture at the National Gallery of Australia, a position she still holds. With her mother living in Lorne, they return regularly for holidays.

Having dreamt of curating a public art event, adoring the familiar environment of Lorne and her long family history here, the job as curator of our 2018 event fitted perfectly.

Her curatorial practice can be enjoyed when her NGA travelling exhibition, *Abstraction: Celebrating Australian Women Abstract Artists* opens at the Geelong Art Gallery on February 25. She will be giving a guided tour on Saturday 25th in the space at 11am.

In her spare time, Lara enjoys cooking and travel and admits to a life-long love of writing.

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 3 Junior Fishing Clinic, at Lorne Pier
- 11 Victorian Surf Life Saving Masters Championships, at Lorne beach
- 12 Victorian Surf Life Saving State Junior Carnival, at Lorne beach

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

A PIECE OF HISTORY DONATED TO LORNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1891, a barque travelling from San Francisco to Melbourne with a cargo of lumber ran aground between the Jamieson River and Wye River. Those on board comprised the Captain, his wife and child, a crew of thirteen and five passengers. The crew was safe and much of the cargo retrieved but it was not possible to salvage the W.B. Godfrey.

Recently, the Lorne Historical Society was presented with a brass porthole, which came from the wreck. Mike Powell, who found the item while diving on the wreck site in the 1960's has donated the artifact to the Society. Through his colleague, Paul Allaway, who has a property here in Lorne, Mike arranged to make the donation.

For those of you interested in learning more about this story of the Godfrey and its fate, there is a memorial on the side of the Great Ocean Road between Jamieson River and Wye River; it is clearly marked. If you visit at low tide, it is possible to still see part of the anchor and winding gear.

The records at the Historical Society carry this description of the incident:

From the Western District Advertiser of 14-3-1891

THE WRECK OF THE W.B. GODFREY

News from Lorne states that there is very little hope of the barque W.B. Godfrey, wrecked on Sunday night on the coast between Lorne and Apollo Bay, being got off the rocks. Captain Davis gave the following account of the disaster to an Argus reporter: "We had very thick hazy weather coming through the straits, and passed the Rodondo Rock at 6pm. on Saturday night. It bore north about three miles, and I took my bearings by it. On Sunday night at 7 o'clock I was on deck keeping watch, and I believed at that time that we were just off the Schanck - that was according to my reckoning. A seaman named John Edwards was on the look-out on the fore-castle head at the time, and another named Gus Hornburg was at the wheel. The wind was about south-west, and a little off the port quarter. As I cast my eyes round I saw what I thought was squall coming up from the north-east. It was dark at the time, and I know that what I saw was the smoke from the bush-fires driving down from the ranges.

The man on the look-out sang out something, and I thought he said, "light on the starboard quarter" but I afterwards learned he said, "land on the starboard

quarter". I decided to ware the ship, and I put the wheel hard up, but though she generally answered the helm very readily she would not go off before the wind at this time. At last she seemed to have come round, then hung for a minute, and then dropped back again as the current got hold of her. A second or two afterwards she touched the ground lightly a couple of times in succession, and then bumped heavily and struck. I tried to get her off by working the wheel and putting more sail on her, but it was no good. I also jettisoned about 10,000 feet of timber. Some of the passengers were below at the time, and others were on deck. She kept bumping all Sunday night, and we had an anxious time of it. I thought it might begin to blow hard at any time, and break her up, so on Monday morning I sent the mate and the passengers ashore in the boat, intending to build a hut of the timber we carried, and camp out until assistance arrived. The mate met a swagman on shore, and found out that we were close to the Otway Ranges, and not off Cape Schanck, so he came on board again and told me. The schooner Jessie came along soon afterwards, and Captain Perry who was most kind to me, took off Mrs Davis and the child and the passengers. You know all the rest.

The government steamer Lady Loch and the tug Racer tried to tow the barque off this morning, but after working for about three hours they broke a couple of hawsers and did not move her an inch. There is about ten feet of water in her now, and most ships in her place would have gone to pieces by this time. I consider her out of my hands now, and the responsibility of any further action must rest with her agents. They have to find the money, not I".

There is much more to be read about the story of the Godfrey. While there were no lives lost when the vessel ran aground, subsequent attempts to salvage the cargo resulted in the deaths of five sailors.

The Lorne Historical Society is now close to completing a major refurbishment of its facilities at Lorne Community House and the porthole from the Godfrey and its story will be a significant exhibit.

Gary Allen

President

Lorne Historical Society



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @Committee4Lorne

P.O Box 168, Lorne 3232. info@committeeforlorne.org.au www.cfl.org.au Phone: 0438 843 258

COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Ian Stewart
Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne