

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Summer 2017 is now officially done and dusted although with the current weather patterns you wouldn't think so. Autumn traditionally signals the commencement of fire prevention for the periods ahead as the Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) prepare to undertake their autumn burns. DELWP's senior forest fire fuel management officer Bo Campbell from Colac is focused on not only delivering the burns around Lorne as a priority, but also communicating their plans across our networks.

The relationship that the Committee for Lorne has established with DELWP, and other Government agencies, is continuing to benefit our wider community as we endeavour to work in partnership for the benefit of all stakeholders. I thank Bo for his ongoing consideration and where possible, they will do all they can to work with our communities to keep interruptions and inconvenience to a minimum - stay tuned for future updates.

It would be remiss of me not to share the final leg of our New Zealand experience with "The Brothers" and the friendships that underpin the values that we all hold so strong. As we sat as one in our accommodation house in Hamilton it was our Fijian Brother Villy Lequa that spoke so eloquently in describing the special relationship that exists between such great friends. Villy reinforced just how lucky we are as he proceeded to present our annual "Murray River Challenge Cup", which was first inscribed in 1987, to regular annual winner Peter Wheel.

The thirty year anniversary of the "Cup" was a milestone that we all cherish just as much as we value the mark of respect that was shared by all as Villy called for our traditional minute's silence in acknowledgement of Alan Green and Mark Trickey who no longer share their laughs with us, but are never lost from our minds. Again it was great trip highlighted by "up and down golf", great food and beverages, camaraderie and friendships that have continued from birth - we are so, so lucky!!

For those that haven't done so, your last opportunity exists to RSVP to our Committee for Lorne Lunch on Friday the 10th of March at the View Room at the Lorne Hotel and remember that RSVP is a must to nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au by Sunday March 5.

You will have the opportunity to hear from Lorne Community Hospital CEO Kate Gillan and the great work that Kate and her team is achieving and future plans with our health service. Surf Coast Shire Citizen of the year Peter Spring will update us all on the Stribling Reserve Master plan and Councillor Clive Goldsworthy will report on Shire happenings as he embarks on his second term in office. Please RSVP today and we will see you there.

*Ian Stewart*

Ian Stewart  
Chairman  
Committee for Lorne

COMMITTEE  
FOR LORNE

## GREAT OCEAN ROAD - MORE THAN JUST A ROAD

Last week, Federal Member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson, convened a public meeting to seek feedback regarding how the next \$50M allocated for the Great Ocean Road might be best utilised in terms of improvements and additional infrastructure. The meeting was convened at the Lorne Bowls Club and it was standing room only. Those in attendance included many representatives from as far afield as Apollo Bay and Torquay and all towns in between. There was spirited discussion about the condition of the road and amongst the many suggestions for improvement, more toilets, better vistas and more car parks proved to be big issues.

Two things became clear in those discussions. The first is that there are so many agencies involved in the management and promotion of the Great Ocean Road that it must be nigh on impossible to have clarity of vision as to how this iconic tourist destination should be presented and maintained. I'm sure overseas tourists don't distinguish between the bit of the road within Surf Coast Shire managed by GORCC, Surf Coast Shire and Vicroads, from the next bit beyond Cumberland River managed by a whole other bunch of agencies. How can there be any consistency in how the road is presented to tourists? Are there guidelines for the whole length of the road related to managing vegetation to preserve views, numbers and placement of picnic tables and toilets? I suspect not.

There was talk on the night of the possibility of one Great Ocean Road Authority having responsibility for the road. That might just be the answer to ensuring that the road continues to reflect the vision of the man who conceived the project, Howard Hitchcock.

There is a second issue that emerged during the evening which is further justification for the road coming under a single authority. There was concern raised by a couple of Lorne's elders that there might be a move afoot to relocate the Arch from Eastern View. In the case of the people who raised this matter, my experience has been that they have an innate ability to smell smoke long before the rest of us see the fire. The matter of relocation of the Arch was

vigorously rejected and so it should be. The history of an Arch at Eastern View is synonymous with the history of the road itself. The first Arch, pictured here, was erected by local landowner Mac Clarke on the occasion of the first convoy of vehicles travelling to Lorne around the newly formed road in 1922. After the road was officially opened in 1932, a new Arch was erected by the Country Roads Board in 1939 and it carried a plaque, pictured here, bearing the inscription, "This Road was built to commemorate the services of those who served in the Great War 1914 - 1918". There is a similar plaque installed on the Hitchcock Memorial Wall at Mount Defiance, carrying the inscription, "The Great Ocean Road. This road was built to commemorate the services of the sailors and soldiers in the Great War 1914 - 1919".

It was Hitchcock's vision that the construction of the Great Ocean Road would provide an opportunity for immediate work for returned servicemen and, more importantly, be a memorial to those who served in WW1.

The Great Ocean Road is a War Memorial. It is the biggest War Memorial in the world. That fact should not be overlooked when we talk of tourists, road maintenance and all the rest. As a memorial is deserves respect and our goal should be to ensure that visitors understand its importance. GORCC are currently undertaking a planning process focused on the Archway precinct. There are problems; too many tourists stopping, no toilet facilities, lack of parking etc. But let's hope that what happens here is a true reflection of the historical importance of the Arch in its current location. Whatever plan is adopted must deal with the current problems and educate visitors on the true meaning of the Road. To even consider an expedient solution of moving the Arch would be an insult to the vision and effort of those who made the Road happen.

All the more reason for one Great Ocean Road Authority.

Peter Spring  
Committee for Lorne



JENNY  
and DAHLE  
McGREGOR



## COMMUNITY PROFILE

How do a nurse and a mechanic end up running the Post Office in Lorne? A sea change of course!

Jenny and Dahle, a Brady Bunch family with eight grown children, were already talking about giving a post office a try when they noticed the Lorne business up for sale. Since Jenny knew Lorne from past holidays, Dahle said, that clinched the deal.

Dahle completed his apprenticeship in his father's tractor business working there for 16 years. He joined them when they bought a Newsagency until it was sold 14 years later. Then he spent eight more years in the country working in a farm machinery parts company until in 2010 he and Jenny moved to Lorne.

After working as a trained nurse in various settings, Jenny turned to a career in pathology collection. She has also worked in pharmacies and hospitality. There's not much time for the McGregors to do anything outside Post Office hours. Dahle enjoys tinkering with the few tools he brought with him, especially renovating the unit they bought.

Jenny loves nature - walking and gardening. Her other interests are reading and cooking. Both squeeze weekends off from time to time to visit their respective families. Oh and they have a rescue cat, Nibbler! Didn't she fall on her feet? The latest addition to the family is a Border Collie, now 19 months old, called Maggie May who comes to the Post Office each day. You will generally see her out the front near the notice board waiting to be patted by all who pass by. Seems like dogs and cats live a life of luxury with Dale and Jenny.

"We love living in a small community so Lorne suits us perfectly. "We don't mind the madness of summer. Not only is it essential for our business but we meet so many people. Throughout the year we also enjoy providing service and information to a growing band of international tourists."

CW

## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 5 **Clean Up Australia Day, Big Hill car parks to Lorne, 9am to 11am. Registration at LAAC 9:00am.**
- 10 **Committee for Lorne Community Lunch, at The View at the Lorne Hotel, 12 noon for a 12:30pm start. RSVP only event, \$25 per head luncheon. Please email name & number of those looking to attend to nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au**
- 12 **LAAC Major Fishing Comp No 2, at the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.**
- 16 **Murray to Moyne Lorne Spinners fundraising dinner, 6pm at The View @ Lorne Hotel. For bookings, please contact Lorne Community House on 5289 4383.**
- 26 **Deans Marsh Festival, Live music, local harvest, market stalls, dog jumping, kids events, sheep dog demos and much more. 10 am - 5pm at Deans Marsh Oval.**

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



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @Committee4Lorne

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