

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Well, we thought Easter might be big and yes it certainly was, it was huge! The signs were there early on Good Friday as traffic began to bank out toward the restriction signs of the town boundary. But that was only the start of it, as Saturday's inbound traffic was constantly snail pace from Cathedral Rock to the town centre. Our thousands of visitors enjoyed Lorne at its Easter best and we were "bulging at the seams".

With the influx of visitors comes the extra pressures on all and sundry in Lorne. It doesn't matter whether you're a volunteer at the Kinder market, Lions Art Show, local Footy, Surf Club or workers with our health and emergency services, retailers, tradies or hospitality – all our resources are stretched to the limit. And to see the town cater for the numbers that we did for such a short sharp intense period, everyone deserves a big pat on the back!

One small piece of feedback that filtered out onto social media through the Easter break read like this – "Can anybody possibly tell me the name of the grey haired MICA ambulance man in the area by chance? He helped us yesterday with our very sick daughter and I'd love the opportunity to thank him from the bottom of my heart! My daughter was the child air lifted in the chopper yesterday afternoon. I'd hate to think if he wasn't there what may have happened. Thanks to the Lorne Community. – Alisha Brien"

I'm sure that all locals would immediately and correctly align these comments to Rick Kehoe and the brilliant work that he has done over many years as part of our incredible team of paramedics that we are so fortunate to have permanently stationed in Lorne. With the grey hair defying his younger age Rick and his entire team deserve every bit of praise, and more, and when you align work that they provide alongside the services of our local Hospital, the Lorne Community is so much more fortunate than many others.

The Department of Environment Water and Planning (DELWP) have advised us that their next scheduled burn is the Cora Lynn burn immediately west of our town boundary and likely to be ignited over the next week, if it already hasn't. There is a lot of information on line about the scheduling and areas of the planned burns at www.ffm.vic.gov.au

A special thank you to our part time residents who attended the workshop at the Stribling Reserve last Thursday as we fine tune our "Achieving Lorne's Aspirations" document. We realise that the date and time may not have been as convenient as we had hoped. For those who couldn't make it so we are looking to arrange a session in Melbourne based on feedback we receive – would love to hear your comments!

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne

LORNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY – A NEW LOOK AT OUR HISTORY.

Over Easter, the room occupied by the Lorne Historical Society at Lorne Community House, was open to the public for the first time in many months.

Last year the Surf Coast Shire agreed to conduct a "makeover" of our facilities. This involved taking out some internal walls, installing new air conditioning, workbenches and lighting. The interior received a fresh coat of paint and the Baltic pine floors were polished. With the assistance of a Community Grant from the Shire, the Society purchased a storage system for records and artefacts and new display panels.

For all this to happen, the volunteer members of the Society had to empty the contents of the room into a shipping container and then, when the works were completed, it all came back in; except this time it was cataloged so we know what we've got.

Over the Easter weekend the Society was able to showcase its brand new premises and display material held by the Society. The theme was Shipwrecks of the south west coast. Material from the wrecks of the Osprey and the Godfrey were on display, along with photographs of many of the ships that came to grief around Lorne.

Society President Gary Allen gave a talk each day on the story of the Foam a ship that met its demise near Lorne. His talk highlighted the fact that each of these ships has its own unique story and connection to Lorne. It also highlighted the fact that the Lorne Historical Society has a wealth of stories and information about Lorne and its people.

As a matter of interest, the nautical Signal Flags on display in the attached photographs are the original flags strung across the Great Ocean Road at its official opening.

Over the past few years, members of the Society have been diligently creating an electronic record of the collection; scanning documents and photographs and cataloging recordings of oral history as narrated by members of our community. It's been a herculean task but we are now seeing the fruits of our labour.

Up until now, the Society's rooms have provided access to a relatively static display of photographs and memorabilia. In the future, we see the space being used for two purposes. There will be themed displays related to Lorne's history; the timber industry, the fishing industry, the guesthouses, the shipwrecks to name a few. There will also be facilities for research. These days the



Society receives many enquiries from people tracing family history and wanting to know if we have information or even better, an image, of an ancestor who had a connection to Lorne.

Today, we have over 4,000 images related to Lorne and its community. There are still more to be scanned but the end is in sight. We have also scanned many hundreds of pages of documents including media stories, papers on particular subjects of interest and letters. Using computer technology, most of these scanned documents are now able to be searched electronically for key words; name, place etc. making the collection far more accessible. The scanning and computer equipment has been purchased over the years with the financial support of the Surf Coast Shire through its Community Grants program and the Community Grants offered by the Falls Music & Arts Festival. Without this financial support we could not have achieved what we have today. Nor could it have been done without the help of so many members of the Historical Society who have volunteered so many hours to undertake the work.

In the near future we hope that with the support of the Surf Coast Shire we will be able to update the external façade of the building which faces Mountjoy Parade to a more modern attractive look, in keeping with our refurbished interior and in keeping with a fresh look for visitors coming in to Lorne.

It's a new era for the Lorne Historical Society. The display room is open every Sunday between 10am and Midday. We plan to open the rooms on a more regular basis in the future, so come along and see what we've done. If you would like to know more about the Lorne Historical Society, visit our web page at www.lhs.org.au or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LorneHistoricalSociety/. You can also contact us by email at info@lornehistoricalsociety.org.au

Peter Spring
Vice President
Lorne Historical Society



Tony HARRIS & Susie MITCHELL



COMMUNITY PROFILE

When the Men's Shedders were grappling with fitting Cockie-proof locks to our garbage bins because of an inefficient template, Tony offered to research a better option. Through his contact Patrick Eijsvogel, he arranged a specialised jig, which has facilitated installation enormously. Just another contribution by someone who loves Lorne and wanting to put something back.

Tony was born and educated in Geelong. He studied surveying at RMIT for a year before deciding it wasn't for him. His journey after that began with work in the timber industry, before a change to the electrical industry for a cable manufacturer. From there he went to an electrical wholesaler then to an electrical contractor. Twenty years ago he bought part of that business and set up K-Mac Powerheads, supplying Caravan Parks and Marinas with electrical service pillars. Tony's brother David is now his partner in the business which also employs Tony's son, Nathan.

Susie was also born and educated in Geelong, studying hairdressing when she finished school. After 10 years in that business she married and had her children. For six years she was an agent for a party plan selling children's wear. Two years in Malaysia followed. She came home and trained as a Bowen Therapist and practised for 10 years, retiring three years ago. Currently she mixes up her week as a host for an Airbnb in Geelong and works a day or two in Lorne at deluxe.

Tony and Susie have had a Brady Bunch for 12 years. Eleven years ago, they bought a holiday house here and after serious redecoration, have been coming most weekends ever since. With three children each and grandchildren appearing fast, they are extending their accommodation to fit them all. Both have parents in Geelong they like to love and spoil.

I love a jog, a paddle or a surf. Just get me near sand and salt water and I'm happy. Tony is a member of the Aquatic Club, Surf Club, Footy Club, Bowls Club, Country Club and obviously the Men's Shed. I like to support local associations where and when I can.

Susie's loves are family, friends and food. She gets her exercise walking the beach, gardening and yoga. She has volunteered with FOPA and was part of the Lorne Community Choir carols last year.

They swooned when I asked about travel and willingly talked about their passion for Italy but they are in agreement, Lorne is the most special place on earth.

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

24 **Anzac Eve BBQ at the Lorne Hotel**, 'Two Up' and live music.

MAY

6 **Lorne vs Irrewarra-Beeac football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

19-21 **Live Music Hub**, Free jam packed entertainment line-up at the Lorne Hotel for the Great Ocean Road Running Festival. More info: greatoceanroadrunfest.com.au/whats-on

21 **Great Ocean Road Running Festival**, the Great Ocean Road will be closed between Lorne and Apollo Bay from 7am to 2:30pm, detours in place. The Lorne township will remain open.

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

