

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

The past fortnight has seen Mother Nature deliver a consistent ocean swell and conditions for our local board riders not seen for some time. It culminated last weekend with reported 6m swells at Bells Beach, close-outs at Cathedral Rock and the Great Ocean Road coastline taking a battering of enormous proportions. It was a spectacular site to behold.

Combined with tides that have seen the George River take on salt water upstream from the Great Ocean Road bridge, the Erskine River “flushed” out and the Surf Club sea wall battered with surge, the ocean has taken its toll on our coastline, but the surfers have had a ball. Working with so many ocean lovers I've seen on-land appointments be replaced with line-up positions and dual shifts in the water rather than the office commitments - how lucky we are!

As the swell subsides, school has begun to close for the second term of the year, with our private schools concluding last week and the public-school bell sounding for the last time as we go to press, there is never a dull moment in Lorne. While many of our local residents have taken off on their annual pilgrimage to warmer parts of the world, our town continues to welcome our increased number of winter visitors.

And you don't have to go far to experience great stories of people enjoying our region in the winter months. I agonisingly complete two personal training sessions a week, that I have unenthusiastically fallen out of bed for over the past fifteen years. My Geelong trainer spends the majority of her winter leisure time walking in the bush behind Lorne and that's a great reminder of the many natural assets on our doorstep. What attracts her at this time of the year is the solitude, the abundance of water over the falls and the smell of the bush - perhaps more of us should experience it!

Last week in Lorne the Stribling Reserve Master Plan Project Control Group (PCG) officially completed the last step of the very successful master planning for the Reserve. As the PCG reflected on the process and what “went well and what could be improved” it was gratifying to hear that the positives far outweighed the negatives and learn that this ground breaking governance model is now being used for other projects across the Surf Coast Shire.

Following the recent budget allocation for a review of the Lorne Strategy Plan 2003 from the Shire, representatives from the Committee for Lorne met with Surf Coast Shire General Manager Environment and Development, Mr Ransce Salan, to initiate the discussion on the how the process would evolve. The CfL is strongly committed to engaging in a “Partnership Governance Model” similar to the Stribling Reserve Master planning process and we are lobbying to achieve this goal - stay tuned!

Ian Stewart

Ian Stewart
Chairman
Committee for Lorne

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR STRIBLING RESERVE

At the Surf Coast Shire Council Meeting held in May, the revised Masterplan for Stribling Reserve was presented for endorsement by Council

The Officer's report regarding the development of the Masterplan concluded with the following: “The Masterplan for the Stribling Reserve was developed in partnership with the community. The Masterplan responds to issues and aspirations raised by the community. Stribling Reserve plays an important role in Lorne and surrounding community. The Masterplan sets a long-term direction for the reserve to be able to fulfil this role. It guides Council in improving the reserve and strengthens Council's position in attracting external funds to implement elements in the Masterplan.”

The Masterplan stated that the vision for Stribling Reserve is to further establish a community hub - where quality facilities will ensure that the Reserve can provide for a range of sports codes, can be popular for its active recreation opportunities and can host education and community activities.

Key proposed enhancements for the Reserve include:

- extensive pavilion upgrades (change room and amenities upgrades, second storey development)
- indoor sports facility roof repairs and de-clutter of the playing space
- amenities and administration building development at the netball precinct (including officials' change rooms for the entire Reserve)
- oval lighting upgrades
- enhanced spectator opportunities
- additional formal car parking
- upgraded entries

Whilst this list of priorities is not in any particular sequence, there is an immediate need to provide upgraded change room facilities for both netball and football players. There is also a need for upgraded lighting of the oval. Current lighting is well below acceptable standards and in fact one of the light towers was removed in 2016 for safety reasons and has been replaced with a portable light tower.

At the time of writing, there is some very exciting news about new projects at Stribling Reserve. The Shire's Draft Budget 2017/18 which was adopted at the Council meeting on Tuesday 27 June, included a provision for \$100K to commence the design of new change room facilities at the Reserve. This is just the first step in a major project to upgrade facilities but nevertheless for the project to be commencing so soon after the adoption of the Masterplan is very positive.

We can also inform you that two further projects included in the Masterplan, upgraded lighting for the oval and an electronic scoreboard, are also set to go.

Prior to the last Federal election, Sarah Henderson MP, the Federal Member for Corangamite announced a commitment of \$200,000 for Stribling Reserve upgrades and \$30,000 funding for a new electronic scoreboard. The Surf Coast shire allocated \$92,000 to the lighting upgrade and \$20,000 for the new electronic scoreboard. Last week the Member for Western Victoria, Gayle Tierney, announced that \$100,000 will be provided through the Country Football & Netball program for the lighting upgrade. Funding is now in place to deliver these 2 important upgrades to the Reserve in early 2018.

The Surf Coast Shire has already commissioned a design for new lighting which will be compliant with AFL guidelines for night competition. There is a requirement to upgrade the electricity feed to the Reserve to accommodate the new lighting so with power upgrades, lighting installation and scoreboard installation, there will be some complexity in this project. However, we are confident that everything will be in place for the start of the 2018 Football/Netball season.

As we have reported previously, at the request of the Stribling Reserve Committee, the Surf Coast Shire adopted a new process to deliver the Masterplan. A process under which the community, through the Committee for Lorne, took a lead role to ensure that the Masterplan incorporated community aspirations and met community needs. The result has been acknowledged by all, including the Shire, as extremely successful and the Shire is now adopting this process in other projects. During the discussions with community, the message was loud and clear; Stribling Reserve, by its facilities and location, is a natural hub for the community and future planning should reflect that. The second message was the importance of retaining the “Village Green” feel. We believe those aspirations are embodied in the Masterplan.

We are already experiencing the community goodwill that Lorne is known for when it comes to making projects happen. Specialist advice from local architects, offers of assistance from local tradespeople and suppliers for example. Over the past few years the facilities at Stribling Reserve have been significantly improved and local support and involvement has been invaluable. We are confident that getting these new projects delivered in 2018 will happen because that community support is ready and willing once again.

We'll keep you posted on progress.

Peter Spring

Chairman

Stribling Reserve Committee of Management



Rev. Sherryl Smith



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Some members of Lorne's combined Uniting and Anglican Church congregation believe Sherryl coming into their lives was the result of a higher intervention. She says, “I was picked up by the scruff of the neck and dropped in it.”

Sherryl had been living in Wye River prior to the recent bush fire and had been filling in occasionally for then minister, Lynton Wade. After she lost everything, even her beloved cat, on Christmas day, the Lorne community embraced her. When Lynton retired soon after, it was a natural progression that she took over his post. “Things have worked out really well.” Although the Manse is the fifth place she has lived in since the fire, she feels she has dovetailed with her congregation, describing them as “the most extraordinary group of supportive people, so full of life's experiences and skills, wisdom, knowledge and openness.”

But Sherryl hasn't always been Reverend Smith. Born in NSW and educated in Albury, she graduated from the National Art School Sculpture Campus with a degree in Visual Arts. Completing a Diploma of Education, she taught art in high schools including Newcastle, Sydney, Hay and Albury before her involvement with setting up The Albury Regional Art Gallery and her own gallery - Gambrawatha.

She regularly took time off to travel overseas, including to Bangladesh where she worked with Terre des Homme, France, for six months as a community worker. “I taught women how to make chapattis with fish meal for greater nutrition and helped set up the “Bisic Design Centre” in Dacca for handcrafts.

Then after returning to teaching in Albury, marrying and having a son, she experienced “a strong conviction to study theology.” Following placements in Parishes and time as an industrial chaplain she launched a Psychology Practice providing Employees Assistants Programs to public and private sector organisations, including Victoria Police. Thirty years later she began to long for her passions – design, wildlife and the environment. She extended her house in Wye River to include a studio and began designing pet accessories for factories in China. She learned Mandarin so she could converse with factory workers and material suppliers.

Sherryl was actively involved in the ‘anti-clearfell logging campaign’ and with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. In a world first, she designed special rescue equipment.

She is excited about the potential St Cuthbert's location has to become a “Centre for Mission” – a community hub. Her vision includes landscaping, building temporary accommodation and a commercial kitchen to serve organisations like schools, youth groups, seniors, family reunions and other activities. Her congregation supports better use of the site, especially community outreach. With consultation well advanced, who knows what she/they will achieve?

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

29 **Lorne Op Shop AGM**, at Lorne Community House at 11:45am

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

JULY

15 **Lorne vs Simpson football and netball**
Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

29 **Lorne vs Western Eagles football and netball**
Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm



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