

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Just when you think our beautiful Lorne has closed down for Winter and people's visions, thoughts and presence move to other parts of the country and further abroad, you don't have look far to realise how deep the passion for Lorne resonates. The past month we have witnessed two activities undertaken that illustrate the great diversity and love that so many have for our town.

The first being the plastic bag free initiative that is really gaining momentum around local circles. A super large shout out to Sarah Harbison and her team who are generating great traction in their "Lorne Goes Plastic Free" campaign. With a petition circulating Lorne, a Lorne Goes Plastic Free Facebook page and Foodworks Supermarket jumping on board in customary fashion to offer their support this a super initiative for a number of reasons but none greater than Sarah's comment, "we are proud to live in a community that is ready to protect our environment we love so much."

In my mind, what lifts this campaign initiative to even greater heights is that it's being driven by our younger generation with enthusiasm, the power of social media and their unconditional love of the town. I urge everyone to offer all the support possible as the momentum builds and continue to encourage and facilitate the needs of our campaign organisers. Continued good luck to Sarah and her team!

Reinforcing commitment to Lorne was seen on another level as the Committee for Lorne hosted a forum for our part-time residents at Melbourne University's Japanese Room in the Melbourne School of Design building last week. This powerful forum pulled together just under 40 Melbourne based Lorne property owners to offer them the opportunity to be part of "Achieving Lorne's Aspirations".

Steve Atkinson from REOS consultants conducted the sessions and captured the input and thoughts of all in attendance in the way only a leader in that field could. The outputs were powerful, wide reaching and reinforcement of the direction that our Aspirational document is helping shape our future. With the Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University, Mr Glyn Davis and Professor Graham Brawn, both non- permanent local residents, we are fortunate and thankful to be able to co-ordinate the session which featured some of Victoria's most influential people, who also love Lorne so much!

If you are not involved in volunteering in the Lorne Community, you could be excused for thinking that the town has such a great commitment from its people within, and yet to those from within, it is one of the special features that make Lorne such a great place. The findings of the recently released ABS Census data 2016 revealed that 35.5% of people in Lorne were involved through volunteering in an organisation or group in the past 12 months, compared to the State and National average of 19.2 and 19% respectively - We Love Lorne!

*Ian Stewart*

Ian Stewart  
Chairman  
Committee for Lorne

## THE LORNE INDEPENDENT – OUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

### From the archives of the Lorne Independent:

"Lorne is growing rapidly - in population as well as in the number of large and small building projects. Although thousands of visitors come to take advantage of our prime tourist attractions, let's not forget our ratepayers. There are now about 2500 of us and out of this number about 1,100 are permanent residents. We have an ever-growing, vital town, and to make it function successfully there needs to be dialogue between us all. Communication is essential. That's why we've formed a small group to bring you the Lorne Independent, commencing as a monthly newsletter.

We are a voluntary group, non-political, non-partisan. Our aim is to bring you news and information on what's what in Lorne. We welcome contributions, opinions, and a special letters-to-the-editor section is at your disposal to get what irritates or inspires off your chest. We consider our contribution to this newsletter as service to the community, but we do have to find money for paper, printing and other expenses. Your advertising will be most welcome. As one of the advertisers said to me: "I don't want to support you - I want to do business with you". We'll try to do our best for Lorne! - Josef Vondra.

That was the editorial which appeared in the very first edition of the Lorne Independent on December 7, 2001, nearly sixteen years ago. In this month, July 2017, edition 188 was published; several hundred copies printed for distribution and sale at various locations around Lorne and several hundred more distributed electronically. For all 188 editions, Jo Vondra has sat in his "war room" as he calls it, writing stories and editorial, collating letters and articles submitted by contributors, working on the layout of the new edition and then getting it to press.

During those 15+ years, Jo has been the driving force behind the Lorne Independent, assisted by a small team managing the advertising, accounts and distribution of the monthly newspaper. Jo has sought out the stories and written critically about the important issues for Lorne during this time.

I have recently had the opportunity to browse through Jo's file of all editions of the Independent. It's incredible to realise the range of issues that have been covered, and to see that in so many cases the Lorne Independent was an agent of change. It's also interesting to note how some issues have been commented upon repeatedly over the life of the newspaper. For example, in the first issue of the Lorne Independent, Councillor for Lorne, Nelson English, speaks of the administrative inefficiencies of have separate organisations responsible for management of the Foreshore, Mountjoy Parade, housing precinct and national park! This is the same issue that Committee for Lorne is wrestling with fifteen years later. As a wise man once said, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" - "the more things change, the more they stay the same".

There is no doubt that the Lorne Independent is a valuable, integral asset within our community. Lorne Independent is a member of CNAV, Community Newspapers Association of Victoria. Our local newspaper has received awards on many occasions from CNAV in categories such as best editorial, best news story, best news reporting. Both CNAV and Jo Vondra emphasise the growing importance of community newspapers and this is reflected in sales within Lorne.

Most people in Lorne look forward eagerly to the next monthly edition of the Lorne Independent and it's difficult to imagine the day when it might not be published. But that day might soon be upon us if the community doesn't band together to help Jo publish the Independent. After 15 years Jo, needs a break. He is happy to stay involved as a writer, mentor, editorialist, but what we need now is a small editorial team to assist with getting the Independent published each month. We are arranging for the layout and printing to be handled, but help is needed to gather content, manage advertisements and contribute occasional articles. It is not a large time commitment, just a willingness to meet for a couple of hours each month to put the paper to bed and at the same time give Jo a hand. Are you willing and able to help?

If so, please contact me at peter.spring@gmail.com or 0417 514 807



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Heather  
Fletcher  
& Michael  
McGrath



## COMMUNITY PROFILE

Both Michael and Heather's first connection to Lorne was through their parents, who coincidentally had both spent their honeymoon here. Michael says he wasn't born in Lorne but might well have been conceived during that time! However, it wasn't until he was in his teens that his family began renting a house each summer for three weeks over Christmas. Two of his most enduring memories are learning to drive in front of the Wild Colonial Club and New Year's Eve celebrations.

Born and educated in Melbourne, Michael graduated as an engineer and spent many years of his career with Mobil Oil. He travelled extensively throughout Australia and South Pacific, including moving his family regularly interstate and to Port Moresby. When he returned to Melbourne twenty years ago, Michael wanted to replicate for his family what his parents had provided for him. The cycle of renting in Lorne for family holidays began again. After several years renting, he bought his own house. "The children and grandchildren have first priority to use it for school holidays and we fit around their needs for these times. However, Heather and I come as often as we can, and we use Lorne as a hub for visiting throughout the Otway region."

Heather's family roots are on "the other side" and was only introduced to the area by Michael, five years ago. Her qualifications are in educational leadership. She recently retired from a career in academic administration at Melbourne and Monash Universities.

Michael has a passion for eating food and Heather one for cooking it. Heather loves opera. Michael doesn't. Heather likes nothing more than cooking with her favourite arias playing. Michael quickly learned that loud opera results in great creative dining and says his tolerance for opera has increased exponentially.

Both are committed walkers. They are regulars on all the bush walking tracks in the Lorne area. Much of their travel is planned around spectacular walking opportunities in Australia and overseas. USA, Canada and Japan are next in their sights.

"What we love about coming to Lorne is the contrast with our city life. As we start to come down more often we would like to be more involved in the community".

It was no coincidence that I happened to meet them at a Committee for Lorne forum.

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## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### JULY

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 15 | <b>Lorne vs Simpson football and netball</b><br>Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm   |
| 22 | <b>80's Comedy Quiz Night, Lorne</b><br>P – 12 Fundraiser with Prizes, Trivia, Games, Raffle, Dancing, Fun! Come in 80's dress up. Doors open 7pm for 7:30 start at Lorne Senior Citizens Hall. Ticket \$25 from <a href="http://trybooking.com/287675">trybooking.com/287675</a> |
| 29 | <b>Lorne vs Western Eagles football and netball</b><br>Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm  |

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