

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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Lorne Goes Plastic Free

Two young women in our community recently decided that it was time to step up and do something to reduce the amount of single-use plastic that Lorne utilises. Lorne's not different from other towns on the planet which also utilise plastic in carry bags, food and drink containers etc. We are all aware of the enormous impact the disposal of such plastic items is having on the environment; in our seas and in the growth of landfill. But Sarah Harbison and Siana Wijono decided that the time was right to take some affirmative action in Lorne.

Their approach to achieve a reduction in the use of single-use plastic is at the heart of this story. It's very easy to say to businesses, "you are harming the environment by your use of single-use plastic, stop it!" It's quite another thing to talk collaboratively to business operators about the issue and determine if, over time, a solution can be implemented. It's not about giving the business operator a problem, it's about working together on a solution.

In that respect, Sarah and Siana had a very quick win. They talked to Jonn Stewart, store manager at Lorne Foodworks and they came on board immediately. Foodworks announced that they would abolish the use of single-use plastic bags from January 2018. In the meantime, they are providing cardboard boxes and selling paper bags and reusable bags. They have also provided free of charge three reusable bags to every household in Lorne. They implemented a charge for single-use plastic bags and announced that funds raised from the sale of all bags would be donated to local community organisations.

At the end of the first week of this new system, they reported that having served over 5,500 customers, they had provided 28 plastic bags, 592 paper bags and 138 reusable bags! You can keep track of Foodworks commitment to reducing the

use of plastic on their Facebook page at - facebook.com/foodworkslorne/.

There are already a number of businesses in Lorne using paper bags as an alternative to plastic. Sarah and Siana have also talked to other local businesses who are coming on board. Grant and Di at Lorne Surf Shop have decided to move to paper bags instead of plastic. It's more cost and more storage but another example of how good ideas which are good for the environment will take off.

Sarah and Siana are now investigating a revolutionary approach to replacing single use take away coffee cups with a product that is collapsible and reusable and would be standard across all cafés in town.

They recognise that abolition of single-use plastic is a big ask and it's not going to happen after night. As Siana says, "that shouldn't stop anyone asking the question, what can I do?" They recognise that change will only come with solutions which business operators are happy to implement and that means talking to the operators

and jointly developing solutions for change.

The Committee for Lorne is fully supportive of this initiative. The major premise of our plan, "Achieving Lorne's Aspirations" is recognition of the need for sustainability and the preservation of our unique environment. What Sarah and Siana have done is to "step up" and start to do something about reducing the amount of single-use plastic in Lorne. The way they have gone about it through collaboration with business operators has delivered speedy results. Their visionary thinking about reduction of single use takeaway coffee cups is just one example of the commitment to this project.

They are leading the charge and there a now many enthusiastically following. You can follow their progress on Facebook at - facebook.com/Lorne-goes-plastic-free-168103090395181/.

Peter Spring
Committee for Lorne



A word from the *Chairman*

What an enormous recognition of ongoing success has been directed toward our local school. Melbourne's largest education data provider has just released the latest data, ranking the Geelong Region's highest performing schools. Based on the percentage of study scores greater than 40 for VCE students last year, the Good Education Group have just unveiled their findings.

Huge congratulations to Karen Biggelaar and her entire team at the Lorne P12 College having been named as the best State School in the Geelong, Surf Coast and Colac region. This incredible accolade is so well deserved and there are many within the school community who have put in a large amount of work behind the scenes in recent years whose input and commitment has been so valued.

The Good Education Group Chief Executive, Chris Lester, has confirmed that more parents were researching the performance and culture of schools to pick which one suited their child. Mr Lester

said the Good Schools Guide should be used as a tool to increase understanding of the Victorian Education system. We are already aware of the many numbers that come from our wider catchment specifically to attend the Lorne P12 College; it's now very clear why!

Last week I reported how one of our Community Members applied their Lorne Surf Club "learnt skills" in a tragic incident in a foreign country. Well this week, one of our locals was involved in another "skill testing" incident. Lorne State Emergency Service member Pakitu "Paki" Henry was in the food court of a major Geelong Shopping Centre when he noticed a group of people trying to prevent an elderly man from choking. In typical "Paki fashion" he ventured over to render assistance and having noticed the victim beginning to turn a scary colour of blue, Paki took control of the incident, lifted the gent with one hand and slapped him three times between the back of the shoulder blades and whispered to him "you're not going to die on me".

Still in total control of the situation, Paki whispered to his client "this may hurt" (I'd say understatement of the year!!!!!!) and belted his back three more times.

This quick thinking, firm action managed to dislodge a chicken bone that had lodged in the back of the man's throat which then saw him regain colour and begin breathing normally again. The Ambulance team arrived shortly thereafter, checked out the victim and went out of their way to thank Paki for his life saving efforts.

Having asked Paki where he lived, he responded, "in the beautiful community of Lorne where I am a member of the SES". The Ambo's were quick to respond - "your first aid training has certainly paid off!!!" Another great example of one of our local greats going above and beyond in applying their skills from volunteer learnings in Lorne - Brilliant!

Ian Stewart
Chairman / Committee for Lorne



COMMUNITY PROFILE GRAHAM and BRIGITTE RODD

Once Graham started work, his father gave him the choice to have a serious savings plan or pay board. By 1969 he had saved enough to put a \$300 deposit on a cottage in Lorne that cost \$7,200. His father helped him arrange a loan for the balance.

Lorne has been a significant part of his life ever since. First with his own family, then after meeting and marrying Brigitte and having children, Lorne became the centre of their own family's life as well, participating in the Nipper programme and Life Saving. "The boys have never known anything different. They thought all roads led to Lorne, so much so that as youngsters on the way to the snow, one son asked, *Is this a different road to Lorne?*"

Graham studied and worked in the Melbourne financial world. His career started on an exciting note working for a Share Broker through the Poseidon boom, later working with JP Morgan with whom he spent most of his working life. Currently he is working for Uniting Church Funds Management. Besides Lorne, Graham is passionate about running and skiing. For the last 10 years he has run the City to Surf in Sydney. He has a personal trainer and goes to the gym.

German born, Brigitte arrived in Melbourne aged five. She completed her education and worked as a Dental Nurse before taking time off to be at home with their children. Once they completed school she resumed work, but this time as an Office Manager for a surgeon. "I married Graham for his dinner parties. He was a fantastic cook but he stopped as soon as we were married."

Her interests after Lorne time are cooking, knitting and skiing. The family has skied in Europe and Canada. She has swum the Pier to Pub three times, the first for a bet to win six bottles on Moet. "It's too cold now".

Of course there have been renovations and landscaping to what can hardly be called a cottage anymore. The house has had a 40th anniversary party, but this year, Graham will be celebrating his 47th summer in Lorne.

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

29 **Lorne vs Western Eagles** **football and netball**

Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm

August

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

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