

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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Unusual Tales of the Lorne Region



It started with an email enquiry to the Lorne Historical Society. The lady was enquiring about a silver dome house on Big Hill which she remembered from her childhood visits to her grandmother's house in Lorne. There weren't any photos in the archives of the Historical Society but, as luck would have it, I had some photos of the dome because at one stage in our love affair with Lorne, we owned the block of land on the opposite side of the Great Ocean Road, immediately above the dome. In fact, we used to walk through the property (with the owner's permission) which led to a track down to the beach below where we spent many, many enjoyable days. The Ash Wednesday fires spelt the demise of the dome. The block of land remained empty for many years and we sold our block and bought a house in Lorne. But after nearly 25 years, I was now curious to know a little more about the dome and its origins. All I knew was that it was owned by "Scotty".

Avenues of research are many and varied these days so my first port of call was social media! I put a post on that source of everything Lorne, the Lorne Community Noticeboard. I included a photo of the dome and a request to anyone who had some information. I certainly did not expect the result I got! For those unfamiliar with the jargon of Facebook, over 65 people "liked" my post. More importantly, about 60 people added a comment. This is in a matter of four days! I now know that John

Scott a photographer and somewhat eccentric individual purchased the silver geodesic dome at an exhibition of futuristic housing held in Adelaide in the mid 1960s. He brought the dome to Lorne and stored it on a block of land in Waverley Ave with the intention of installing it there. The Council said no so he moved it to Big Hill, on the low side of the Ocean Road which in those days was managed by a different council.

As I said the dome was destroyed by the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983. John Scott moved back to his home in Williamstown. He died there in 1995 at the age of 53. People posted copies of news articles and tributes from the press of the time, which give much more information about this most interesting man. Other postings in response to my query provide some insight into his eccentricity. The toilet door in the dome was clear Perspex. The plumbing from the bathroom was transparent piping running through the living areas of the house! There were a number of comments from posters who remarked about attending New Year's Eve parties at the dome. No specific facts, just a hint of what they might have been like. And so, from one enquiry about a dome on Big Hill and a subsequent enquiry posted on Facebook, we have a picture of a man who must have loomed large in the community of Lorne at the time.

Having discovered this wonderful source of research, (I make no claims to the accuracy of all responses to questions), I decided to cast yet again; this time in response to some material recently gifted to the Lorne Historical Society. The material related to another character of the time in this region, Sir Samuel Moggs of Moggs Creek. The material supplied includes a story of Moggs as a navigator of a ship which came aground at Moggs Creek in 1763. The crew survived and established a settlement at Moggs Creek. Under Moggs' leadership the community thrived and established good relationships with the local aboriginal clan. One of Moggs'

achievements was to establish a whisky distillery using the clear sparkling water in the region behind Aireys Inlet at what is now known at Distillery Creek. The Lorne Historical Society is now the proud holder of a bottle of "Moggs Lighthouse Very Old Matured Whiskey" dated 1765. The story of Moggs and the bottle of Whisky will be on display at the Society's rooms very shortly. So, yet another tale of Lorne's past and another of the characters which made this special place. In Moggs' case, either through his actions or just the myth that has built over time, who knows?

There are many other Tales of Lorne which need to be documented. For instance, the Tin Hill Mob. The people, the stories and escapades and last but not least, what is the "Ballad of Tin Hill"? People talk about it but no one I've talked to as yet can recite or sing it. We would like to gather as much information of the Tales as we can. If you have a Tale to tell, visit of Facebook page at Lorne Historical Society or email us at info@lornehistoricalsociety.org.au.

Peter Spring

Lorne Historical Society



A word from the *Chairman*

In the past week, the Great Ocean Road has been the big winner at the Australian Traveller People's Choice Awards being named as the country's best road trip in Australia. Victoria led the way at the awards with Melbourne named Australia's favorite city by travellers for the sixth straight year. Australia's sporting and cultural capital was judged best city travel experience, while Chin Chin (owned by one of our part time residents) was judged best restaurant at the awards.

The awards confirmed what many of us already know, and believe in, while research shows that interstate visitor numbers and spending continued to increase to June 30 2017. State Tourism Minister, John Eren said the pressure was on to remain a tourism leader as other states tried to tap into the lucrative tourism sector. "Because of the value of the visitor economy, every state and territory understands the importance of it and it's a competitive market," Mr Eren said.

He said the sector was now worth about \$23 billion to the state economy and generated about 215,000 jobs but the aim was to lift that to \$36.5 billion and 320,000 jobs by 2025. All great news with a State Election on the horizon and the Point Grey – Lorne precinct in the final stages of preparation prior to lobbying for funding for the project in the heart of Australia's most popular road trip!

More great news being shared by Chris Pike, Surf Coast Shire Manager Culture & Community, who informed us that following the Stribling Reserve Masterplan process winning the State Award in the Community Services/Development category, the project has featured strongly in the National Awards. The Project finished in the top three projects in the prestigious National Awards where the Australian Institute of Project Management awards recognise project management excellence, narrowly losing out to a Queensland project delivered by a global engineering and advisory services

firm in the same category.

A huge weekend coming up in Lorne to celebrate the Melbourne Cup holiday weekend with a number of events scheduled. The Lorne Country Club's Open tournament kicks off today and they also have their Gold Record Show on Saturday evening (Limited tickets still available. The presentation of the Doug and Mary Stirling Community Cup on Friday evening at the Cumberland and the Lions Club Market Saturday on the Lorne Foreshore just to name a few

Notice is hereby of the Committee for Lorne next Community Luncheon at the View at the Lorne Hotel on the 1st of December (please RSVP to Nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au) and our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 5pm at the Multi Purpose Room at the Stribling Reserve.

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne

COMMUNITY PROFILE

KEVIN AND SUZANNE DIVINY



Three years ago, the Diviny's moved permanently to Lorne. Both had spent camping holidays here when they were young but without knowing each other. Years after, when Suzanne's parents bought an oceanfront block and built a beach house, their Lorne holidays continued. The house was lost in the '83 fires but quickly rebuilt in time for her mother's 60th birthday. In their retirement, her parents lived in it until they moved into the Lorne Nursing Home. It is the house Kevin and Suzanne live in today. In fact, they even first met nearby, at a neighbours New Year's Eve party in 1977, married in 1979, had two children and now have a granddaughter.

Suzanne's career was in sales, mainly in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Currently, she helps at Lorne Pharmacy when needed. She is a member of the newly formed Lorne Walkers Club, loves gardening, tennis, reading and has a library of cookbooks. "She is a brilliant cook" Kevin adds.

She is significantly involved in our community as Treasurer of the Lorne CFA and Facilitator of the Lorne Local Command Facility.

Kevin is a Polymer Scientist and has specialised in packaging. He runs a small consulting business from Lorne, part time. Tennis has been and is his passion. When they lived in Melbourne, he was President of Ormond Tennis Club and played in Lorne at weekends. Now he is not only on the committee for the Country Club but played in the winning doubles team this winter in the Geelong Tennis Competition.

Kevin has recently joined the SES, is a member of the Aquatic Club, the Bowling Club and the Book club. He is a gardener, a reader and enjoys music.

If the ecstatic disposition of their two dogs is a reflection of their owners, Suzanne and Kevin are exceptionally happy living in Lorne.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

November

- 3 **The 2017 Doug & Mary Stirling Cup**, Presentation dinner honouring Jan and Peter Spring. Cumberland Lorne from 6.30pm \$85 per person. To reserve seats, or tables of 10, contact Margaret Cartledge on 0408 599 336 or margcartledge@hotmail.com. Book before October 1 and go in the draw for a \$100 Foodworks voucher
- 4 **Lorne Foreshore Market**, local produce, art & craft, books and yummy treats. 10am-4pm. Run by Lions Club of Lorne
- 5 **LAAC Major Fishing Competition number 6**, Lines down at 6am. Weigh in at 12.15pm. Barbecue lunch at LAAC.
- 5 **Deans Marsh Market**, Local food growers & producers, live music, local artists and crafts people, kids activities, buskers. 9am-2pm at Deans Marsh Reserve.

December

- 2 **LAAC AGM**, 5pm start with Presentation of fishing awards at 5.30pm at the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.

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