

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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OMM ROCK CHOIR SONGS OF FREEDOM CONCERT

As we learned last week, beginning in 2012, the Deans Marsh OMM Rock Choir has changed and grown over the years. Weekly workshops on offer to all communities include; drumming sessions held separately in Colac, Geelong and Deans Marsh, and choir rehearsals run locally in Deans Marsh and in Colac and Anglesea. Soloists and an accompanying band of local musicians are brought in as determined and each group gradually brought together in the weeks leading up to final performances.

OMM is constantly changing and has come to represent the changing face of our community. Louise Brown, the person behind the formation of OMM, has already used her talents to lead many local music based community projects.

The next OMM project, planned for March 2018, is the 'Songs of Freedom Concert' which is a regional initiative embracing the broad community in order to engender a sense of belonging in a growing multicultural region. This proposed activity has sprung from grass roots support and has developed its own momentum. Local volunteer efforts have already raised \$9,000 towards

production costs at events like Birregurra's 'Rock for Refugees', with the remaining \$3,000 needed to be raised over coming months.

Music and singing are now fundamental aspects of education and socialization in these schools. The 'Songs of Freedom' project takes this to the next level by engaging with our refugee community to celebrate, through music, our cultural diversity. It gives us as a community, a platform to express our thoughts and feelings on issues which need to be addressed.

Commencing rehearsals in early February, there will be eight weeks of arts/music community engagement activities, involving 200 participants culminating in a large-scale performance during Cultural Diversity Week at the Deans Marsh Festival on 25th March, 2018. The performance will include residents from 9 towns across the region and will incorporate world music, original compositions and songs about social justice to promote harmony.

The creative rationale for this project stems from the community's desire to find new ways and opportunities for culturally

diverse groups within the region to come together and express themselves and their stories. Regional Communities need creative outlets to develop their sense of belonging. The project will nurture and create artistic opportunities that are difficult to access in the country. It will encourage participation through music and help to build and strengthen connections between communities. It is inclusive and accessible to everyone: to all age groups and levels of musicianship.

The 'Songs of Freedom' project aims to enable those in the community, new and old, to join together through song and celebrate our diversity as well as embrace our shared humanity. Locally we wish to bridge the widening gap that exists in our towns and to celebrate our diversity and the common thread we all share as a people. Globally, this is all about coming together as a people for those who have no voice.

OMM is the story of the passion of people to create projects and involve community. In the case music is the glue. Our communities need more projects like OMM.

OMM Rock Choir



A word from the *Chairman*

It's hard to believe that all of a sudden, we are less than two weeks away from Christmas Day and the end of 2017 to follow shortly thereafter – where has the year gone? The sad part of it all is that it appears that the older one gets the faster the year seems to pass us by – do you know the feeling? This time of the year is always a good time to reflect on the past twelve months and plan the forthcoming twelve.

I wanted to share with those who were unable to attend our recent luncheon, a snapshot of the activities of Committee for Lorne (CfL) over the past twelve months. At our AGM in December 2016, I reinforced that we need to improve our communication channels and platforms moving forward and resurrect a number of initiatives that lost a bit of momentum in the previous year. I am happy to be able to report that the 52 weekly articles in this paper over the past year was only the "tip of the iceberg" when it comes to linking back with our community.

The CfL hosted four very well attended

Community lunches with multiple guest speakers of note. Four community workshops were facilitated in Lorne, one in Melbourne and one with the Lorne School to provide further insight and input to the document titled "Achieving Lorne's Aspirations". We conducted six bi-monthly CfL meetings, updated our website and improved the platform for our mobile responsive weekly delivery of the Committee for Lorne Page in the Surf Coast Times.

Our involvement in major projects has included driving the research project on the directions and options to accommodate Lorne's future and the current goal is the delivery of the "Accommodating Lorne's Future" report by June 30, 2018. The report will look to present a Statement of Needs in respect of affordable accommodation, long term rental and peak season accommodation together with suggested solutions to satisfy those needs. We were the active Project Owners of the Stribling Reserve Master Plan and have initiated the review

of the Lorne Strategy 2003 (scheduled to commence in 2018) and we are actively involved in the Point Grey Steering Group.

We have continued to develop strong relationships with the multiple Government Agencies that manage our town and a highlight has been the continued Interagency meetings with the Surf Coast Shire Executive team and Great Ocean Road Coast Committee. The relationships that have been established have never been stronger and with support from all levels of Government, we are well positioned to further achieve the aspirations of the Lorne Community.

I would like to thank the CfL committee members who have been actively involved in the many aspects of our progress over the past twelve months and urge you to attend the Annual General Meeting this afternoon (December 14th at 5.00pm) at the Stribling Reserve.

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne

COMMUNITY PROFILE

DAVID LAWLER



After camping for many summers at Queens Park and then renting holiday houses, twenty years ago David bought land just out of town. Three years later, he and Warwick Yates, a local builder, designed and built a house that sits so naturally in the bush it looks like it grew there. Made of 90% recycled timber with no plaster and only minimum new boards, it is a masterpiece in design and workmanship. Almost every component has a story attached to it, from floor, beams, rafters, counter top and doors. David sourced most of it from a company in Echuca. An elaborate sprinkler system has been installed around the house to give it every chance to survive in a bushfire.

A large deck with an ocean view and a barbecue help to entertain friends.

David worked in the corporate world for 15 years. He then bought a Guest House in St Kilda, renovated and operated it for 17 years, before selling it three years ago to an American University for student accommodation.

He lives in Melbourne with his partner, Lesley, but spends three to four days a week at his Lorne bush retreat.

David's home has never been connected to the electricity grid. He sources his power from solar panels which store power in his large 24 volt DC battery system. The power is converted to 240 volt AC through an inverter.

David's passion is travelling and lists Europe, South and Central America as favourites. He enjoys reading, swimming and riding a mountain bike around the bush surrounding Lorne. He is a member of the Aquatic Club.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

December

- 16 **Carols on the Lorne**, Mountjoy Parade. Lions Club sausage sizzle followed by Christmas Carols.
- 17 **Carols in the Marsh**, OMM choir and performers, BBQ & bar open, jumping castle, BYO picnic rug, chair from 6pm @ Deans Marsh cricket oval.
- 19 **Lorne Business & Tourism Association AGM**, 8am at Lorne Central
- 21 **Lorne Community Christmas Party**, 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Erskine Paddock
- 27-30 **Geoff Lindsay's Crab Club**, pop up restaurant @ Lorne Hotel. Reservations call – 5289 1409
- 28- **Lorne Falls Music & Art Festival**, Dec 28 – 1 Jan

January

- 2-5 **Frank Camorra's Movida**, pop up restaurant @ Lorne Hotel. Reservations call 52891409
- 12 **Mountain to Surf Run**, at 8:30am
- 13 **Pier to Pub Swim**, Lorne
- 21 **Festival of Colours**, Colour, Music, Dance, Friends, Food. 11am-4pm at Lorne Foreshore. www.festivalofcolours.com.au

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FOR LORNE**