

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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The Living Stage: a community project that celebrates Lorne's flora and fauna

The Living Stage is arguably the world's first recyclable, biodegradable, biodiverse and edible performance space. A centrepiece of the Lorne Sculpture Biennale 2018, the project will provide a platform for celebrating Lorne's vibrant and eclectic mix of flora and fauna, as well as hosting performances by local artists and musicians. Part theatre, part garden and part growing demonstration, the work will feature a portable plant-lined stage amongst a corridor of suspended botanical sculptures.

Created by Melbourne designers Tanja Beer and Ashlee Hughes in collaboration with local community members (including Helen Smith, Anne Nadenbousch, Colin Leitch, Sue Grant and Grace Nicholls), the Living Stage aims to bring theatre, sustainable design and gardening together to provide a tangible example of how ecological and artistic initiatives can sow the seeds of community vitalisation and environmental stewardship. At the end of the project, all plants and materials will be returned to the community who helped build it. Physical structures will become garden beds and community spaces, plants become food, and waste becomes compost.

Since making its debut at the Castlemaine State Festival in 2013, Tanja Beer's Living Stage concept has travelled to New York (US), Glasgow (UK), Cardiff (UK) and Armidale (NSW, Australia) as well as being featured at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space and the V&A Museum in London. As each living stage evolves out of a direct response to the localities of site, ecology and community, no projects are ever the same. However, ideas of facilitating ecological connection, celebration and contribution are central to the concept. The Living Stage (Lorne) is the first project situated by the sea and community members Anne Nadenbousch, Helen Smith and Colin Leitch have been instrumental in procuring soil, plants and objects for the stage, with more than 45 boxes of plants actively growing in preparation for the Lorne Sculpture Biennale Opening.

By activating the space as an outdoor performance stage that doubles as a community garden installation, it is hoped that The Living Stage will become a central activity hub for residents, artists and visitors at the Lorne Biennale. The Living Stage concept transforms public spaces into vibrant social



gathering places created by the community, for the community. At the heart of the idea, is the desire to build social connectedness and resilience in times of increasing environmental challenges. It's all about making sustainability fun, embracing people's creativity, and inviting people to have a nibble at the stage. The team looks forward to showcasing and celebrating the work with the wider community in March.

For more information about the project see: www.tanjabeer.com and www.ecoscenography.com

Twitter: twitter.com/TheLivingStage

If you would like to get involved in the making of The Living Stage (Lorne) or would like to take part in upcoming plant-crafting workshops, please email Tanja Beer: beert@unimelb.edu.au

The Sculpture Committee would welcome the assistance of a co-ordinator of stage performances. If you would like to offer your services, please contact Fay Valcanis -

manager@lornesculpture.com

Sponsored by: the Thrive Research Hub (Melbourne School of Design, The University of Melbourne), the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and Graham Blashki & Evelyn Firstenberg. Assistant designer: Pia Guillatt. Set builder: Tim Denshire-key. Plants donated by Batesford Nursery, Bushland Flora, Flinders Nursery, Tavistock Nursery, Tree Growers Advanced (TGA), Warners Nurseries, Rhodo Glen Nurseries.

Tanja Beer



A word from the Chairman

As 2018 unfolds, so does the progress on our much-anticipated Point Grey Precinct and it came as no surprise to me that there were 39 submissions received by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) as Expressions of Interest for the architectural design work in this world class location. The selection Jury have evaluated all submissions and the decision of the four final competitors for the architectural design has been made.

Stage 2 of the process, the development of competition submissions, will run through February to the middle of next month. Under the Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry, all applicants, including the final four competitors are guaranteed anonymity so must remain confidential and known only to the Jury at this stage. GORCC Chairman Ken Northwood will be meeting individually with the successful candidates to provide a briefing surrounding the process and content as controlled by the competition rules and probity requirements overseen

by Pitcher Partners.

Ken is also keen to ensure that the key elements which were agreed through the Project Steering Group (PSG) process and captured in the relevant documentation, are highlighted. These key elements have been discussed over a number of years and recently articulated by the PSG, are crucial in the final outcomes to maintain the high level of community support. We will look to provide further updates as they come available.

While talking progress take a drive past the Lorne School and check out the landscaping works that are being finalised as part of their overall Master Plan. The precinct is taking on a lovely fresh look and the new timber fence is a charming highlight of the Smith Street streetscape – It's all looking fantastic.

It was great to have members of Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) make direct contact with the Committee for Lorne (CfL) with the sole purpose of briefing and sharing information

about their planned burns program for the Otways. Following last years very successful burn of the Big Hill area and the subsequent cancellation of the burns at the rear of Lorne due to rainfall events, we are back on top of the priority list for what is planned beginning early March.

Next week our main article will be written by the FFMV team and provide an overview of their planned activities and many challenging issues that surround their comprehensive planning and review process. Make sure you read and share with as many as you can and weekly updates will also feature in this column as part of the communication process.

Don't forget Friday night at the Lorne Hotel Bistro & Beer Garden – Lydia Lassila. Come and watch her fly! An evening to support Lorne's own Lydia Lassila as she competes for Gold in the Women's Aerial at the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Ian Stewart

Chairman - Committee for Lorne

COMMUNITY PROFILE



IAN AND CHRISTINE WALDING

Christine's parents with three 3 small daughters moved to Lorne in 1954. Christine attended the local kindergarten, the Lorne School to year 10 then High School in Geelong.

She worked part time at Mrs Carmichael's Drapery Store and Ozone Milk Bar before a permanent job at the Lorne Fishermen's Co-op. She recorded the fishermen's daily catch and managed wages. After two years, Christine moved to Melbourne and worked with Norma Tullo as a fabric buyer. She returned to Lorne three years later and worked in the Arab and also at the original Rip Curl in Torquay. It was during this time she met up with Ian whom she had known since 1965.

Ian visited Lorne in 1962 as a "chaperone" for his sister and her fiancé staying at Kia-Ora Guest House. "I saw them twice. Once when we arrived and again when we left. I went surfing...". Born and educated in Edithvale, Ian worked as an electrician for W. Tolson & Co. His obsession for surfing, meant weekends were spent "wherever there were waves". "In the early 60's, my mates and I surfed and camped up and down the East Coast of Australia from Noosa in QLD to Victor Harbour in South Australia and every surfing spot in between".

In 1968 Ian's 'board bumps' resulted in him failing the medical for National Service. So he left for the UK where, for two and a half years he lived and surfed in England, Morocco and California. To supplement his travels, he stuck labels on baked bean cans, was a chef and made surf boards in California.

It was when he returned that he met up again with Christine. They married in 1973 and moved to New Zealand for 12 months. Ian worked as an electrician. Back in Australia Ian worked stints in Weipa and Gladstone before moving from Melbourne to Aireys Inlet to set up his own Electrical Contracting business, Anglesea & Aireys Inlet Electrics.

"Pre Ash Wednesday, Aireys Inlet was a small community, so you became a member of just about every committee. I was Captain of the Aireys Inlet CFA for many years which involved rebuilding work after Ash Wednesday. I was also a trainer for the Lorne Football Club".

In 1985 the family moved to Lorne and with Christine's brother and his wife bought the original Fish and Chip shop and ran it for four years. They built a family home for their 3 children Selena, Shannon & Stephanie. When it came to downsizing they bought a smaller house and a motor home and travelled the east coast of Australia for 12 months.

In retirement, Ian still surfs, volunteers at the Info Centre and Historical Society, and is an avid photographer. Christine cooks the Seniors Wednesday lunches and loves doing anything associated with sewing, knitting, crocheting, needlework and craft.

"Oh, by the way" says Ian "can you let everyone know that I am NOT the "Waldo from Lorne" who writes jokes in the Herald Sun...my jokes are much funnier."

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

February

- 16 Support our Olympian Lydia Lassila,** at the Lorne Hotel from 9pm as she competes in the final of the Women's Aerial Final at PyeongChang, Korea.
- 17 Lorne Castle and Candle Competition,** at St George River

March

- 4 Clean Up Australia Day,** 9am - 11am Register LAAC – 9am
- 17 -2/4 Lorne Sculpture Biennale.** A vibrant festival celebrating the best of Australian and international sculpture. A free event on the Lorne foreshore.
- 25 Deans Marsh Festival,** Live music, local harvest, market stalls, dog jumping, kids events, sheep dog demos and much more. 10 am – 5pm at Deans Marsh Oval.
- 29-2/4 Lions Easter Art Show,** at the Senior Citizens Centre.
- 31 Lorne Kinder Easter Market,** Located on the Lorne Foreshore 9am – 4pm.

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