

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

TONI AND JOHN WAITE



Over 50 years ago Toni was camping at Anglesea with a group of girls at the same time as John and his mates were renting a house. The girls were invited to the house for a dinner party and that's where Toni met John. They married, set up in Melbourne and had two children.

Toni originally from Queensland, finished her education in Melbourne. Although she harboured thoughts of being a nurse she instead studied occupational therapy, practising for three years at Kew Cottages and 20 years at Bayley House. She also taught piano there and every year prepared her students for a concert where they acted and sang.

John was born and educated in Melbourne. Completing his law degree he began his career with Arthur Robinson and Co., remaining with them through their restructure and stayed until he retired.

Fifteen years ago, following a brief spell doing some consultancy work, he became a full time retiree.

The Waites are long time Lorne holiday makers. John first came with family friends, aged 11, and stayed at The Lorne Hotel many times. Before Toni and John bought their own house 30 years ago, they rented houses, apartments and motel units. When they are not away, "We or the family come down most weekends and regularly for holidays. We think of ourselves as temporary locals".

A passion shared in winter is barramundi fishing in the Kimberley and Arnhem Land. They also have a place at 1770 (Qld) where they spent 15 weeks last year. They are travellers and every two years go to Europe. Toni takes Italian lessons weekly, for Italy is of special interest. "We took our 'maiden' voyage on a cruise ship in 2017. We probably won't do another but at least we know what people are talking about now".

The Waites very keen to support the community, eat regularly at local restaurants and are members of the Aquatic Club.

They are avid readers, enjoy gardening and time with their grandchildren. John still plays golf twice a week in Melbourne and surfs in Lorne. Toni loves the ballet.

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

March

- 4 **Clean Up Australia Day**
9am - 11am Register LAAC - 9am
- 8 **Celebrate International Women's Day in Lorne**, Featuring award-winning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musician Jessie Lloyd and Lorne Biennale Sculptor Merinda Kelly. 6.30-9pm at Lorne Country Club. RSVP's essential www.iwdscs.com.au
- 11 **Lorne Tennis Club Labour Day W/E Tournament**, Lorne Country Club
- 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.

COMMITTEE
FOR LORNE

From *Little Things*...

The Deans Marsh community is one of many in the Shire to benefit from the last round of Shire Small Grants, grants to help local community groups turn their own ideas into projects that in a small way enrich their local community. Small projects, small benefits, local communities - it can all seem pretty unimportant. But it isn't. It's one of the most important things that communities do; work together to make a difference. And while we work together to make some local improvement we can never know just how much this will ripple on through time and continue to benefit us all. Our small project, for example, started life in 1939 and it continues to spark local new ideas, new projects, and to influence our future.

In 1939, some members of the Deans Marsh branch of the Country Women's Association decided it was time the local hall had decent stage curtains. The hall was the hub of the local community where local groups met, held weekly dances and so on, and decent stage curtains would make such

a difference. So they set about making them. This is wartime, there is little spare money or time, and the project got off to a slow start. But it stayed alive in their hearts and come the end of the War, the serious embroidery and sewing began. The late 1940s are still tough times so the women re-cycled hessian sugar bags into 48 panels and embroidered their personally chosen designs to make the first Deans Marsh Hall Stage Curtains. For fifty years those curtains brightened the lives of the local community. But like any local achievement, it did far more than just that. Making the curtains brought folk together in a common cause, it strengthened community bonds, it gave the community a sense of pride in what they could achieve. Together, all these seemingly unimportant little community projects are what builds and sustains communities, enriches them, helps make them more self-reliant, more resilient, healthier and happier places to live.

After fifty years of opening and closing on the community life of Deans Marsh, the

first curtains became quite fragile. Experts were consulted and in no time the Museum of Victoria recognised the curtains as a valuable and rare surviving example of the fine craft work of women in the 1940s. The Museum offered to preserve the curtains and add them to the permanent State collection. That was a very proud moment for our little community, a totally unexpected outcome, who would have thought! But now, once again, Deans Marsh had no stage curtains.

Next week, the story of how the 1990s new curtain project in Deans Marsh helped unite a changing community and, twenty years later in 2018, inspired a whole new celebration of Deans Marsh.

The next round of Surf Coast's Small Grants program is coming soon to help make your idea a reality. Have a go. You never know. From little things...

Tony Watts
Deans Marsh



A word from the *Chairman*

What a magnificent influx of international visitors we have seen for the annual Chinese New Year celebration along the Great Ocean Road and hinterland, some visiting us for the first time while others returning and bringing friends and family. I'm not sure what's attracted more attention, the numbers or the issues we have experienced on our roads. There's one thing for certain and that is it's fair to say that the focus has certainly moved from cyclists to road users in general.

A Geelong Advertiser article earlier this week further highlighted the local problems and the lack of initiatives that failed to be implemented following recommendations from a road awareness program twenty years ago - but rest assured we are not alone. Over the past week I have been privileged to be enjoying the Hawaiian island of Maui.

My journey led me to the Hana Highway on East Maui's north shore to travel the 67 kilometre route from Paia to Hana, embedded along the coastline and revealing the most breathtaking, panoramic, ocean views in the Pacific. Along the way are

jungle-enclosed swimming holes, tropical flowers, lava tubes, ancient tide pools and the world's most majestic water falls.

But these jaw dropping sights didn't come effortlessly, especially with one raw Aussie driver getting in the "passenger seat" to control the vehicle and then being required to drive on the "wrong side" of the road!!!! Add to this no more than 56 one lane bridges, 617 hairpin curves, thousands of international tourists, locals looking for their fastest times to work and all of a sudden my thoughts for our local visitors was so much more sympathetic than before.

I was proud to say that I completed the journey unscathed albeit I think my wife may have been exposed to some language she may have preferred not to have heard. It appears that wherever we are, the problems we face with increased numbers of visitors is spread across the world and it's only going to get worse. I read with interest that at the January 2018 World Economic Forum the number of Chinese passport holders would grow to 240 million by 2020. As of today, approximately 120 million Chinese citizens

hold passports, about 8.7 per cent of its population.

It is further predicted that the potential market of Chinese outbound tourists will effectively double in only two years and this means only one thing and it doesn't matter whether it be the cliff top Hana Highway on Maui or my No.1 ranked world drive, the Great Ocean Road, traffic numbers are growing exponentially. Our real challenge is how can we make the experience safer for all road users in years to come as, just like our international visitors, I received no education or insight into the vehicle, the road laws or how to handle the conditions I was to encounter - "Houston we have a problem"!!!!

Don't forget, our next Lorne Community Luncheon has been set down for the Friday the 9th of March at the View at the Lorne Hotel. As always, please ensure you RSVP to nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au with guest speakers to be announced over the coming weeks.

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne