

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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## Celebrating Deans Marsh

*The continuing story of the Deans Marsh Curtain...*

In the 1990s Deans Marsh was changing. The long established local families were still doing what they do but now many new folk were moving into the area and there were few opportunities for long-term locals and newcomers to connect, to share the stories that help build and sustain a community. At the same time, the original Deans Marsh Hall Stage Curtains were acquired by the Museum of Victoria for their permanent collection, the curtains that were made and embroidered in the late 1940s by members of the local Country Women's Association.

Now Deans Marsh needed new stage curtains, and Deans Marsh needed a way to unite its changing community.

One long time local, Margaret Stewart, had also arrived in Deans Marsh in the late 1940s. Her mother-in-law, May Stewart, helped make those first curtains and fifty years later Margaret saw an opportunity and seized it. New stage curtains could be made with a panoramic design showing

much of the story of Deans Marsh, its agricultural industries, its beautiful landscape, its wonderful flora and fauna. And the task of making the new curtains could help bring the long-established locals and the newcomers together.

Margaret lobbied the Surf Coast Shire Arts Officer Julie Dyer, to help kick start the new project. Julie secured some State funding and brought on board one of Australia's finest fabric artists, Jan Preston, and after 7,200 volunteer hours of stitching and sewing by close to 100 new and old Deans Marsh locals, a brilliant new set of curtains was made. And valuable new community bonds were built.

Now, almost 20 years on, another curtain project is underway. A large-scale photo mural of our splendid Stage Curtains will soon be mounted on the external wall of the Community Hall. This photo-mural is the first of many that, over the next ten years, we are looking to place around the Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve as an open-air, walk-through photo album celebrating the Deans Marsh community and what we do

now; Tourism & Accommodation, Vineyards, Olive Groves, Berry Farms, Landcare, our part in the Otway Harvest and Arts Trails, our annual Festival and Dog Trials, our sports teams, our local CFA, new local businesses, and of course, our Music.

The beautiful photo-mural will be in place by March 16, so when you come to Deans Marsh, perhaps to our Festival on March 25, take a moment to enjoy the story it tells: from a seed of an idea in 1939 to the beginnings now of a new decade of Celebrating Deans Marsh.

For well over one hundred years, so many people have volunteered their time and skills to help make our community life in Deans Marsh as good as it is. We celebrate every one of those volunteers. We owe our thanks to them all.

Read more of the story of the Deans Marsh Curtains on our Community Cottage website: [www.deansmarsh.org.au](http://www.deansmarsh.org.au)

**Tony Watts**  
*Deans Marsh*



## A word from the *Chairman*

The Lorne Surf Club has been front and centre on national television over the past fortnight as part of the celebration of the Dulux's painting of its 200th Australian Surf Life Saving Club. This is a wonderful, very generous project initiated by Dulux and Lorne were the lucky Club to receive the full treatment. There will be a series of Dulux advertisements in the months ahead, and the Club and its striking new paintwork feature strongly. What was of equal significance is the involvement of their members.

It didn't matter whether you were a permanent Lorne local "nipper", a non-permanent beach patroller or a part of a crew in in one Australia's strongest surf boat rowing clubs, everyone was involved, and with a special visit from the famous Dulux Dog the cast was complete.

Interesting also to read from afar the reports of a prominent motor cycle group looking to head to Lorne for a weekend following the upcoming Labour Day Weekend. Our last visit was approximately 6 years ago when we had a large group set up camp beside the Surf Club in the middle

of our Nippers program. This group were well behaved as Marion Church forged a relationship that was respected by all.

I must comment on the great initiative from the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club (LAAC) in extending an invitation to the Committee for Lorne members, and where appropriate, to the committees and boards of the organisations of who we represent, to a briefing by the committee of the LAAC on where things are at with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's plans for the redevelopment of Point Grey, how that impacts the Aquatic and Angling Club and their plans for the future.

If you are keen to learn more, I urge you to speak with representatives of your local organisation or network for the briefing details - a great initiative by one of our most progressive local Clubs! And whilst on the LAAC, I look to extend the best wishes of all to their hard working Commodore Keith Miller, who is recovering from surgery.

As I return back to the shores of where we live and drive the Great Ocean Road, with motorists driving all at different speeds, the

beauty of our coast is reinforced the moment the ocean is at my shoulder passing the Anglesea Surf Club, and the moment I pass the Fairhaven Club with Lorne in full view I know how lucky I am to call this place home. Again, having been extremely fortunate to visit a part of the world I hadn't visited before is another, if needed, affirmation to my belief in the special qualities of our coast and in particular, Lorne..

Travelling to celebrate a milestone wedding anniversary with my wife Lynda, who has been the invisible strength and support and has, with such patience and persistence, been the quiet guiding light to our successes, made this trip even more memorable.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances involving our proposed guest speaker, it is with regret that we must cancel the Committee for Lorne luncheon due to be held on Friday, March 9. We are working to reschedule within the next few weeks, so stay tuned.

**Ian Stewart**  
*Chairman - Committee for Lorne*

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### ANNA ARMISTEAD



Anna grew up in Hamilton, the eldest of seven children, and went to a small local school until she joined the Macarthur Post Office as a part time telephonist. "In those days you did everything else as well - from washing the floors to serving at the counter". She was transferred to Hamilton to a full time position but was still asked to do some relief work around the Western District. In 1969 she was moved to the Geelong Telephone Exchange.

In the summer of 1972 Anna came to Lorne as a relief telephonist. She and four other girls boarded with Meryl and Len Fulton. "I remember it so well. She had five small daughters, a husband operating a fishing boat and still the time to care for us so well AND of course that's when I met Leon". They were married in 1973.

Anna and Leon's three children were born in the Lorne Hospital at the time Mary Stirling was a nurse. The Armisteads owned and operated the Caltex Service Station on Mountjoy Parade and lived on site for 12 years before building their own home. Apart from the twelve years they lived in Geelong where they had a video shop, they have lived in it ever since.

Anna has a long list of community involvement. She is a life member of the Kindergarten, has served on the School Mothers Club and the Footy and Netball Club. She has been President of the reinstated Lorne Girl Guides years ago. She was a Lions Club lady for many years.

"I've never been really into sport but I believe I am the only winner of the Goanna Award from Badminton days but I attend the weekly exercises at the hospital and sometimes walk the dog."

What Anna loves is craft. She knits and sews - mainly for their six grandchildren - and is a member of the Ladies Craft Group in Lorne which meets every week. She also loves the movies. Names like Michael Caine, Donald Sutherland and Kevin Costner roll easily off her tongue.

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### LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

#### March

- 11 **Lorne Tennis Club Labour Day W/E Tournament**, Lorne Country Club
- 15 **Murray to Moyne Fundraising Dinner**, 6pm at The View, Lorne Hotel. \$65- canapes, welcome drink & 2 course dinner. Call 5289 4383 [communityhouse.lorne@swarh.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityhouse.lorne@swarh.vic.gov.au)
- 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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