

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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Lorne connections to our new Electoral Namesake?

Will our electorate soon be named after a pioneering campaigner who worked with Lorne's Frank and Lillian Beaurepaire?

The Australian Electoral Commission [AEC] has proposed renaming the Corangamite Electorate Cox to signify its changed dimensions and in order to commemorate Victorian pioneer swimming teacher, lifesaver, organiser, fundraiser and senior state government officer Miss May Cox (1883–1953). The renaming is part of a much larger redistribution which will see all Victorian federal electorates change their boundaries and four be renamed.

The End of the Seat of Corangamite? In its long history, the seat has been held by both conservative and ALP representatives, including an original settler J. C. Manifold twice – and an ALP Prime Minister J. H. Scullin and is currently held by Liberal Sarah Henderson.

A renaming is seen as necessary because the new electorate, which will now include all of the Surf Coast Shire, will no longer include Lake Corangamite after which the electorate was named in the original creation of Australian electorates in 1900-01.

The changes to the electorate also incorporate changing population densities in the Colac, Surf Coast and Geelong regions, and is in keeping with recent practice of naming electorates after people rather than place names.

While it may be sad that Corangamite will be no more, Miss May Cox is a most appropriate person after whom to name the electorate.

New Seat to Celebrate the Marvellous Miss May Cox?

After an early career as a teacher in Albert

Park, in 1910 May Cox was appointed as the first and only woman Supervisor of Swimming and Lifesaving in the Victorian Education Department.

She was a leader in swimming education in Victoria and Australia and one of few women to be recognised for her contribution in her own life time. She worked early in her career with Lorne residents, Olympians Frank and Lillian Beaurepaire to promote swimming and life-saving education throughout Victoria for both boys and – unusually for the time – for girls as well.

Lillian Beaurepaire is well-known to Lorne residents as a loved community member and philanthropist. She donated [anonymously] the funds which allowed the members of the Lorne Hospital Auxiliary to purchase the land in Lorne's main street, and then build the now-famous Lorne Community and Hospital Op Shop which has served the whole community for nearly 60 years.

Lillian's many contributions to Lorne life were also memorialised in the Lillian Beaurepaire Memorial Swimming Pool which served Lorne so well until, despite strong community objections, it was creatively renamed Lorne Sea Baths

May Cox and Frank Beaurepaire created the Learn to Swim programme and promoted it across Victoria. As Dr Deborah Towns, sociologist and historian, demonstrates in her work on Miss Cox's life and career:

"May Cox (1883–1953) was ...one of the first women teachers to work in the head office of the Victorian Education Department. In her lifetime Cox was recognised as a leader in the Victorian community. Therefore her name acted as a drawcard for the Red Cross's patriotic activities during World War I. In 1916 she

was highlighted on a poster: 'Miss May Cox, Chief Lady Swimming Expert in Victoria', that advertised a 'Grand Annual Aquatic Carnival' as a fundraiser.

During her career she held two influential positions in Victoria. She was a swimming and lifesaving expert and managed the department's World War I patriotic activities where her promptitude ensured that the department was the leading government fundraiser.

The public record shows that she had a forceful and engaging personality. One such example was in 1921 when a poem written by grateful teachers described her as 'The Queen of all the hearts' and 'ready from dawn till eve to play the game'."

Dr Towns describes Miss Cox as 'a highly visible 'superstar' in her day – she was a forthright personality and had a wonderful sense of personal style'.

However, the creation of the new electorate celebrating Miss Cox is not yet certain, as Sarah Henderson has said in a recent press release, 'I am pleased to confirm that the Liberal Party will be objecting to the draft boundaries and re-naming of the Corangamite electorate'.

Ms. Henderson is also apparently concerned that 'the proposed new name has already prompted some ridicule on social media.'

By the sound of her, Miss May Cox would not have been at all bothered by that!

Deb Campbell
Deans Marsh



May Cox

A word from the Chairman

The Great Ocean Road Task Force Issues Paper is continuing to create strong discussion among those who have the best interests of the coast at heart. Potentially the biggest opportunity of the past 50 years to have meaningful discussion and debate as to what's the best Governance model for the world famous Great Ocean Road (GOR) Tourism corridor. And whilst this growth momentum we have, on the Federal front, a likely realignment and renaming of what we have all known as the Federal Ward of Corangamite – change appears imminent.

Many will remember the debate and controversies that surrounded the Local Government "shakeup" which saw the Shire of Winchelsea abolished back in 1994 and, along with parts of the City of South Barwon and the Shire of Barrabool, were merged into the newly created Surf Coast Shire. All at a time when echoes of concern rang loud from surrounding coastal residents that their interests were not aligned to the growth node of Torquay as opposed to the southern

end of the newly created ward. Don't get me wrong; Torquay is a great location, great place to live, growing at a rapid rate and with outstanding community services, but in my opinion, their current and longer term issues are not aligned to those of their southern neighbors.

I feel sure that if the decision makers had been able to forecast this trend in the years leading up to 1994 the Local Government "shakeup" would have provided a different outcome to that which we have today. You don't get many opportunities for change of the magnitude that so many people believe is required to reinvigorate and efficiently manage the GOR corridor for future generations and the political environment appears perfectly positioned to launch change if we are committed to the outcome.

We must look at the challenge ahead with the same entrepreneurial approach that saw AFL negotiators create "the unthinkable" in aligning the State Government, MCC, Ethihad, and other "second tier" stadiums

in a package to benefit all and secure the AFL Grand Final at the MCG for the next 40 years – what a great partnership!

Probably fair to say that the GOR is not closely aligned to the AFL but after living on the coast for over five decades and speaking with many people I am certain we have more "moving parts" than what is required for effective and efficient ongoing management of one our country's most iconic assets.

The Committee for Lorne is actively gathering feedback to submit a response to the GOR Task Force Issues Paper. We are hosting Friday's lunch with Co-chair Terry Mulder and looking to complete a submission on our position with regard to the issues paper. We would love the opportunity to hear any comments that can be included in our submission or you can lodge your own at www.planning.vic.gov.au and click on the Great Ocean Road Task Force Tab.

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne



COMMUNITY PROFILE

PAUL AND AMANDA MILLER

Amanda says Paul's passion for BIKE RIDING on road and in the mountains, has to be written in capitals. Only just over the Murray to Moynes fund raising ride, plans are already on the go for a bike ride in Italy in June. Amanda will take part but with an 'e-bike', meaning she has pedal assist to help with the hills.

Their backgrounds have lots in common. Both were born and educated in Colac and spent their childhood holidays with their families in Lorne Caravan Parks. Then it seems only natural that as adults they met in Lorne, beginning a holiday romance that became a distance relationship because Amanda was living in Ballarat and Paul in Colac.

After school, Paul joined his family's farm machinery business from which he retired only last year. Amanda's first job was with a Health Food Store but then in her words she worked in many jobs. They married in 1985 and set up home in Colac. They produced three sons. While the children were little they bought an old caravan and repeated family history by returning to Lorne for holidays.

"Then we bought a really old house in Lorne. With a tiny renovation we were able to use it for holidays. Five years ago we did a complete renovation and for four years it has been our permanent home and we are loving it".

Amanda without hesitation says her passion is family. But with a son who plays guitar, piano and synthesizer and writes for his band 'Sleeping Lessons', she quickly adds music to her list. "Going to his gigs in Melbourne, keeps us young". I doubt there's any chance in the near future of the Millers presenting as anything other than 'young'. They ooze energy from every pore.

On Paul's retirement they drove in the Kimberley area for three months. "We also love art and visit galleries wherever we go". They are avid readers.

Amanda is a volunteer at the hospital and drives patients to appointments when required. I met her doing a shift as a volunteer for the Lorne Sculpture Biennale. She adds brightness wherever she is but some is about to come her way in September - their first grandchild! And what a grandmother she is going to be!

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

April

- 20 **Committee for Lorne Luncheon**, at the View Room, Lorne Hotel. Guest speaker Terry Mulder, Co-chair of the Great Ocean Road Task Force. RSVP to nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au
- 21 **Lorne vs South Colac football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm
- 28 **Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride**

May

- 4-6 **Lorne May Music Festival Weekend**, various events at Cumberland Lorne, The Riverbank Café, Grand Pacific Hotel & Lorne Hotel. Book 2 nights accom at Cumberland Lorne, Grand Pacific Hotel or Lorne Hotel & receive 2 free tickets for 2 people to all events. More info lovelorne.com.au and oztix.com.au
- 19-20 **Great Ocean Road Running Festival**, Running, music, wellness.

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