# THE COMMITTEE FOR



**MAY COX** VERY MUCH THE RIGHT SORT OF PERSON

Following our recent article on May Cox, after whom it is proposed that the redrawn electorate of Corangamite be named, there have been a number of request for more information on this remarkable person. (Note title that May has in the accompanying poster). Deb Campbell, who wrote the previous article has done some more research and discovered much more about May. Deb writes:

Born in 1883, May Cox began her career as a pupil teacher at Albert Park State School at 16, and at 27 was appointed the Education Department's Organiser of Swimming and Lifesaving in 1910, making her one of the first women teachers to work in the head office of the Victorian Education Department.

Very famous throughout the State in her time as the best-known advocate and instructor of swimming for both boys and girls, she was both promoted and undervalued by the Department. May waged a sevenyear campaign for equal pay with her male colleagues and eventually achieved it - in 1920. Her correspondence with the Department pointed out that those [males] she trained as swimming instructors such as Frank Beaurepaire got paid substantially more than she did.

May Cox advocated strongly for Victorian women and girls to take up swimming. While boys were required to learn to swim as part of their school-based military training, girls were being told to focus on motherhood. By 1913 she had already instructed more than 10,000 students as well as more than 5000 teachers in swimming diving and life-saving.

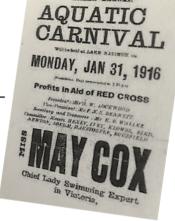
Swimming instruction is of course more than just healthy recreation – as the newspapers of the day made clear, the regular drownings of young people saw the Coroner calling for more swimming instruction for all young people.

Far from coy, May Cox's name was advertised in the community and the media throughout Victoria and beyond, as these posters and newspaper articles show.

From the beginning of World War I, Cox's work increased [without any additional salary]. From 1914 to 1919, she combined her organizer's role with the management of the Education Department's patriotic activities when she was appointed as honorary organizing secretary of the Victorian State Schools Patriotic League (VSSPL), which raised the enormous sum of £422,470 [about \$30M in today's currency!] to aid to soldiers and returned service people.

Cox and her staff supported the committee, chaired by the minister and the director of Education, Frank Tate. This was a second statewide promotional, management and organising role for Cox and involved work at which she excelled. She had developed effective school networks, had a high community profile and had already worked with military personnel who would from now oversee the patriotic programs.

The VSSPL, through Cox and her staff, mobilised the state's two thousand technical, high, higher elementary and state schools to work for the war effort. During the war, as well as the money raised, around four hundred thousand 'comfort' articles, including 59,981 [I] knitted socks, were provided by teachers and children. After the war ended in November 1918, substantial funds were left and Cox continued as the executive secretary, [being paid an additional honorarium of £50 per annum. Whoopee!].



Natimuk Swimming Luup.

## The committee

eventually invested its proceeds of almost £100,000 to provide further benefits to returned soldiers. Significantly, one of its post–World War I funded programs still receives regular attention today: the Villers-Bretonneux school in France, rebuilt with Victorian schoolchildren's patriotic funds, in memory of the Australian soldiers killed there. Sir Frank Tate laid its foundation stone in 1923 and was awarded the Legion of Honour in 1927 for his World War I services to France.

So there we go: Tate got a knighthood and a French honour and May – well she got equal pay – but not back pay! May retired in 1938 and immediately married. Many women in the public sector did the same: if they married while working, they were sacked.

May Cox was a woman of substance, style and élan: she was an innovator, a skilled organiser and someone who inspired many – and saved a lot of lives: who better to have as the namesake of our electorate by the sea?

For much more on Miss May Cox see http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/sti/ pdfs/14\_Towns.pdf by Dr Deborah Towns, and many thanks to her for the images and her generous assistance.

**Deb Campbell** 

# A word from the Chairman

Another Autumn is about to draw to a close and within the week Winter will be officially upon us. A great time of the year in Lorne; different to the Lorne that our summer lovers enjoy, but nonetheless a beautiful place for different reasons. To be the only footprints in the sand on your morning walk, the smell of the bush brought to life by the rain or regularly communicating with and acknowledging other locals, reinforces how special this this time of the year is. It is also a time when many will head to different parts of the country and the world for their winter getaway to recharge after a busy period.

Earlier this week, I was fortunate to be attending the Australian Real Estate Conference over two days at the Gold Coast Convention Centre along with 4500 other Estate Agents from Australasia and beyond. With over 30 speakers, many of whom were International, you may be surprised to hear that it was a lady with a non-real estate story that commanded the undivided attention of every delegate in the auditorium.

Amanda Lindhout delivered an address under the banner of "Freedom in Forgiveness" that carried a message as powerful as any I had ever heard. Raised by a single mother, Amanda escaped the violence of her childhood by imagining herself in the pages of a National Geographic Magazine. Working as a journalist in Somalia, Amanda and her Australian colleague Nigel Brennan, were abducted by a group of masked men and spent the next 460 days as hostages, surviving on strategy, fortitude and hope.

The experiences that unfolded as she emotionally shared the treatment and trauma, had to be heard to believed and to hear a pin drop with 4500 Estate Agents in one space was a rare feat not normally encountered. It is certainly no surprise that Amanda is such a sought after speaker and New York Times best-selling author. A House in the Sky is being developed into a Hollywood motion picture by heavy weight production company Annapurna, with 2X Oscar nominated actress Rooney Mara playing Amanda. If you get a chance have a read!

I couldn't complete my article this week without reinforcing the comments made last week by our Vice Chairman Peter Spring as to the outstanding commitment made by Cynthia Wynhoven (CW) over the past five years to the production of our Community Profile column. We are still urgently seeking someone to continue on from the outstanding legacy that has been created by Cynthia and would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved.

Our community luncheon on Friday week, June 8, will see Damien Smith, Chairman of the Board of the Lorne Community Hospital and Kate Gillan, CEO of the hospital providing an update on activities and plans for the future of our great Community asset. Please RSVP to nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au.

#### lan Stewart

Chairman - Committee for Lorne

# COMMUNITY PROFILE



### **CAROL TUTUNGI**

In 1976, aged 25, Carol was teaching Physical Education at Oberon High School in Geelong. In the market for a house, an ad for 100 acres with two houses on it in for sale in Lorne was a dream come true. After one inspection and a big discussion over dinner at Chris's Restaurant that night, Carol and three others bought the property. Soon after, a position for a Physical Education teacher became available at the Lorne School and with Carol's appointment, her life thereafter was connected to Lorne.

Carol was born and educated in Melbourne. Her passion was sport and she grew up involved with softball, netball, hockey and athletics. It is no surprise that leaving school she completed a Diploma of Physical Education at Melbourne University. She worked first in Melbourne, then Geelong before teaching eight years in Lorne. Soon after Carol moved here she met Chris through her active involvement with the Lorne Football and Netball Club. They married and have three children, Troy, Casey and Skye all of whom share her love of sport.

In 1981, the Tutungis set up part of their house as The Bush House Restaurant, using an Australiana theme and a menu which included crabs and yabbies. The entertainment was a wandering minstrel (the local school art teacher). "It was lots of fun and became very popular with the locals". Sadly, two years later they were victims of the Ash Wednesday bushfire.

When they rebuilt, it was in a different location but still on the same beautiful property. Now Carol's time, outside bringing up children, was spent working in the hospitality industry, but "in 1996 we bit the bullet, took out a big bank loan and built Lorne Bush House Cottages."

Carol has put her time into the community through her connections with the Lorne and Aireys Inlet Schools, the Lorne Business and Tourism Committee and the Lorne Active Recreation Committee when in the 1990s, she and other local mothers worked toward a better children's playground facility on the Lorne foreshore. "I hope when the demands of work and family lessen a little, I will have time to be involved in more community activities ".

When Carol is not working on the cottages she enjoys exercise, loves to play golf and walk with the girls. She loves to visit their grandchildren in Torquay and Port Campbell as much as possible and take breaks away with Chris and other friends.

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### June

9

- 8 **Committee for Lorne Luncheon.** 12pm for 12.30 start at The View at the Lorne Hotel. Guest speakers from Lorne Community Hospital. To book, contact nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au
- 9 **Lorne Foreshore Market,** Located on the Lorne Foreshore 9am 4pm.
  - **Lorne vs Alvie football and netball**, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm
- L.A.A.C 4th Major Fishing Competition, Weigh in between 12-12.30 pm. Roast lunch for all competitors \$10 Adults, \$5 Children.

## COMMITTEE FOR LORNE