

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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STEPPING UP to Help Others

If you decide to take a trip out to Erskine Falls after all the rain we've had, don't be surprised to see a CFA member in full gear, including breathing apparatus, coming up the 240 steps from the bottom of the Falls.

And if you stay there long enough, you will see him repeat the "down and up" four times! Or maybe you'll encounter him striding up Francis Street, probably Lorne's steepest street, in full kit.

Neil Hillard is Maintenance Manager at Mantra Resort. He came to Lorne five years ago and having previously been a volunteer with Narre Warren CFA, on his arrival in Lorne, he immediately joined the Lorne CFA.

On Saturday 1st September 2018, Neil will be one of 650 Firefighters who will "step up to fight depression, PTSD and suicide" by climbing the 28 floors of Crown Metropal Hotel wearing 25kgs of turnout gear and breathing apparatus. The event simulates the actions of a firefighter entering a burning high rise building, so is exclusively for firefighters in full structural firefighting protective clothing, and wearing Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

This is one of several Stair Climbs which take place around the world to commemorate the personnel who climbed the stairs of the World Trade Center after 9/11 to rescue people trapped in the building. The participants in the Melbourne Stair Climb all receive a T Shirt bearing the names of all Victorian firefighters who have lost their lives in line of duty and the firefighters who lost their lives in 9/11.

They aim to raise \$700,000 for Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute to improve support services, fund research, remove stigmas and raise awareness of Mental health issues like depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and suicide, especially for those within the Emergency Service and Defence communities.

This will be the 5th Annual Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb that will see career and volunteer firefighters come from all over Australasia and the world to compete. Since

the inaugural year in 2014, the event has raised almost \$1,300,000 for the Alfred Hospital Burns Unit, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute.

Neil is representing the Lorne CFA and is one of about ten volunteer firefighters from the Surf Coast region who will be participating. He entered the event for the first time last year and is back in 2018 to do it again! This is despite experiencing the "what the hell am I doing here?" moment at the sixth floor that previous participants had warned him about.

So if you see Neil, in full CFA kit, climbing around the hills of Lorne or on the steps down to Erskine Falls, remember that in addition to a full time role at Mantra, he is a volunteer firefighter committing more of his time to train for and participate in an event which raises money for a very worthy cause. Say hi and acknowledge the great job he is doing. If you would like to back Neil in this project, you could make a donation here - <https://www.firefighterclimb.org.au/donations/donate/>. And don't forget to specify that your donation is to support Neil Hillard, a great example of a member of our community making a difference.

Peter Spring
Deputy Chair
Committee for Lorne



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I'm not much of a television addict but occasionally I'll tune into something that really grabs my attention and that happened recently when what flashed across the big screen was a clip of Lydia Lassila jogging across the grassed area of windy Point with Point Grey in the background. It happened to be the opening episode of Australian Survivor and Lydia's debut as part of the Champions tribe was super impressive, just as you would expect from such a high achiever.

It was during the introductions and the background bio's on the athletes that one cannot help be amazed at the strive for achievement and commitment that people like Lydia have. The Winter Olympic Gold Medalist who retired following her fifth

Winter Olympics in South Korea, along with her husband and two young children, proudly call Lorne home.

Lydia's amazing career saw her enter the history books following the Pyeong Chang 2018 Winter Olympic Games as Australia's first female athlete to compete at five games, an amazing achievement.

Lorne is also home, albeit part time, to male Olympic athlete Colin Coates who represented Australia at a record six consecutive Winter Olympics, starting in 1968 in Grenoble, France. Colin finished up his career in 1988 at the Calgary Olympics in Canada at the age of 41. He competed over 10,000m, 5,000m, 1,500m, 1,000m and the 500m, for a best placing of 6th in the 10,000 in Innsbruck, Austria, during the

1976 Winter Olympics. For such a small town Lorne has such a unique and diverse population base who all contribute in their own way to the very special fabric of Lorne.

Hard to believe, but the last home game of the 2018 Colac and District Football and Netball season is this Saturday at the Stribling Reserve when Lorne play host to the Colac Imperials. With only two rounds remaining our local footballers are well positioned to have teams in all divisions represented in the upcoming finals season. Although our ladies aren't quite as well positioned they need to be congratulated on fielding full sides throughout the year after a mass exodus of senior players.

Thursday evening meals at the Club rooms continue to be a major drawcard across

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

August

- 11 **Lorne vs Colac Imperials** football and netball, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm
- 11 **Lorne P-12 Collage** - Movies & TV Comedy Quiz Night hosted by Rusty Berther. Wine, bubbly, beer and soft drinks available at reasonable prices. 7pm Tickets \$25 from www.trybooking.com/398520
- 26 **Run the Marsh**, 3km walk, 2km & 5km fun run at Frogwood Arboretum. Register at deansmarsh.org.au.
- 30 **FOPA – Festival Of Performing Arts**, featuring comedy, cabaret, magic, music and roving entertainment at locations around Lorne. www.fopa.com.au

September

- 12 **Lorne Bowls Club – Community Cup**. Competition starts at 5pm on each of the three days. Entry forms and more details at Lorne Bowls Club
- 15 **Amy's Gran Fondo**, Cycling event. amysgranfondo.org.au

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne

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