

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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## LORNE Then and Now

### Lorne Historical Society is planning a new Exhibition

**The current exhibition presented by the Lorne Historical Society, "Fishy Tales – The Story of Lorne's Fishing Industry" will finish in the next few weeks.**

Planning is already underway for a new exhibition "Lorne – Then and Now" which will contrast various aspects of life in Lorne and its environment, focussing on what life was like in a previous era with the Lorne we know today.

Marilyn Mackenzie, Secretary of the Society, has written this recollection of beach life in Lorne. This is an example of the recollections we want to capture and present.

"In the 19th century the upper classes viewed bathing as medicinal not pleasurable. Bathing consisted of a short immersion in cold water. Men frequently bathed nude in the early morning and the neck to knee costumes were transparent when wet. It was therefore not surprising that complaints were made to the Winchelsea Shire Council about indiscreet bathing. This led to the 1882 construction of the Lorne Sea Baths, an 80 metre timber jetty on the main beach near where the pool is now. You can clearly see the baths in the photograph. Swimmers were partitioned from each other for privacy. Men swam in the morning and women in the afternoon. The baths were destroyed by strong easterlies after only a few years. It was not until 1903 that the regulation forbidding mixed bathing was repealed.

Swimming gained in popularity and from the 1880's, Guesthouses and private families built bathing boxes along the bay for privacy and convenience. They were used as changing rooms, for storage and for entertaining. You can imagine the parties that would have been held in them. There were still about 50 bathing boxes in 1970, but all were removed in 1973 largely due to vandalism and poorly regulated leasing.

The beach is constantly changing. Sand is built up and washed away by storms, tides and longshore drift. We have built and removed groynes, constructed a sea wall and replanted the dunes in an effort to protect her.

The foreshore area, once known as the Flats, has been a cow paddock, a football ground, an airstrip, a car park and the home to tennis courts, a bowling green, dodgems, bounceball, a roller skating rink, a theatre and bathing boxes.

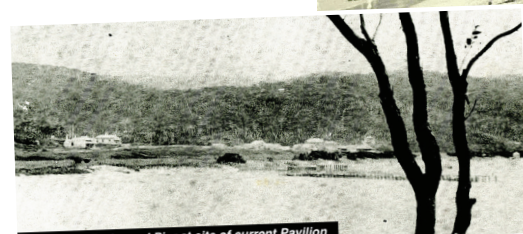
We have fished, sailed, swum, surfed, skiffle boarded,

snorkelled, built sand castles, flirted and just plain had fun on the foreshore. The equipment and clothing might have changed but the joy the beach brings has remained the same."

The Society welcomes your contribution to the "Then and Now" exhibition. We will be arrange material for presentation under various themes such as; accommodation, shops, entertainment transport etc. Our goal is to contrast the eras of then and now under these themes. If you would like to lend us some photographs for us to scan, or drop in and talk to us about your recollections we would be grateful. You might even like to write a short piece on your particular recollections. The Society's rooms are open every Friday and Sunday from 10am until Midday. You can also send material to us via email at [info@lornehistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:info@lornehistoricalsociety.org.au).

#### Jan Spring

Lorne Historical Society



### LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

#### October

- 13 Lorne CFA Celebratory Dinner. 6.30pm start. The View @ Lorne Hotel. \$60 per person which includes welcome drink. See attached poster for booking details.
- 15 Caring for those affected by ALCOHOL and other DRUGS. Learn how to support people who are affected by alcohol and other drugs, find out about services available for both users and carers, and discuss mental health strategies and services. Book online at <https://www.trybooking.com/YJHZ> or phone Lorne Community House on 5289 4383.
- 16 My Health Record Information Session. Learn about how My Health Record works; how it can be accessed; privacy and security measures; and what to do if you don't want a record created. 10.30am to 11.30am at Lorne Community House. It's a free session but you need to book here - <https://www.trybooking.com/YEMZ>
- 27 Mantra Garden Party. Celebrating 150 years since the first hotel opened on the site that is now Mantra. Lots of activities. All welcome

### COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Can you believe it? – The final school term of 2018 is now underway and the countdown to Christmas has well and truly started, in fact in 70 odd days or just under 11 weeks, it will be upon us. With the final week of school holidays last weekend, I couldn't but help ask myself how many times I was posed the question by locals and part time residents "how come it's so busy?"

The coast and Lorne in particular, has seen enormous numbers of visitors and it starts to make you wonder where there are any changing trends with Australians travelling domestically today more than yesterday, or have people had enough of our long windy winter and just want to get out and about.

There is however one certainty and that is the number of internationals visiting our town is at levels like I've never seen in my 35 years of working in Mountjoy Parade.

Whatever the reason it projects a great Spring vibe into our town and hopefully paves the way for what will be one of our most buoyant summer periods for all - and who knows what we are experiencing just may be the new norm!

Last Friday, the Committee for Lorne Community hosted our quarterly Community Luncheon at the Lorne View and with just under 80 in attendance, listened to the passion and inspiration of Graeme Wilkie as he painted the picture of how the Lorne Sculpture

Biennale 2020 would evolve. Under the theme of "Bring me a Higher Love" and in his new role as "Curator" the direction of the Biennale is primed to combine our local history and culture with the international arts world.

If you get the opportunity to speak with Graeme, or any of his Biennale team, you will soon learn of the excitement that is growing from within their ranks with this innovative approach to 2020. I urge you all to rally behind this exciting event that has taken such a different direction and will be of such interest to all Lorne people as well as the wider arts community.

At the same luncheon it was a pleasure to be able to introduce Great Ocean Road

Coast Committee CEO Vanessa Shernickau who took over the reins from Richard Davies in March this year. Vanessa gave a great introduction of her personal attachment to the coast, her passion for the area and a desire to work with our local communities in her role with GORCC.

The update on the proceedings with the Point Grey Precinct was well received, with those in attendance having the opportunity for questions, and it was noted that Vanessa's presence was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

#### Ian Stewart

Chairman - Committee for Lorne