

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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If you would like to receive this page each week via email, please contact us at info@committeeforlorne.org.au

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

November

- 3 **Lorne Foreshore Market**, local produce, art & craft, books and yummy treats. 10am-4pm.
- 4 **Deans Marsh Market**, Fantastic Otway food and wine, a unique artisans craft market, music and Kids entertainment. 9am-2pm at the Deans Marsh Reserve.
- 4 **LAAC Major Fishing Comp**, Weigh in at 12 followed by presentations and roast lunch for competitors and members.
- 4 **Lorne Country Club AGM**, at the Country Club at 11am
- 17 **Lorne Football & Netball Club AGM**, Lorne Leisure Centre, Stribling Reserve at 10am

Summer Season in Lorne begins

but it's not without some problems

We are now starting to see the usual signs that herald the start of the Summer Season in Lorne.

Daylight saving has started, the weather is warming up, we are receiving more frequent visits from the Shire's parking inspectors.

Melbourne Cup weekend has traditionally been the time when people start preparing for the summer holidays with cars and trailers bearing all sorts of equipment, beds, refrigerators etc arriving to set up accommodation for the summer period.

For most it's an exciting time and the summer season is Lorne at its best. However, it's also time that is not without its problems for some in our community. If you look on social media, for example, Lorne Community Notice Board 2.0 on Facebook, you will see an increasing number of postings from visitors to Lorne who have secured work for the summer but have no accommodation. For example; "Hey guys we are a couple coming in Lorne for work next week and looking now for a room/ accommodation from the 11 of November. If you have something or hear about a place that's could be lovely to let us know. See you in a week in Lorne!".

Or this one. "hey team! just looking for somewhere to live in summer, anyone have

a spare room I can snatch up? I know they're hot property at the moment."

These examples of enquiries for accommodation are typical of dozens of posts requesting accommodation which start to appear around September/October. Over the summer season, the demand for additional seasonal workers in hospitality, cleaning and other services rises dramatically. The additional workers required over the summer period is in excess of 200! In past years, those workers who could not find accommodation have had to camp out, sleep in cars, couch surf with friends; anything to find a place to sleep for the night.

It is a serious issue which affects most of the businesses in Lorne trying to attract the additional staff required to meet summer demand and trying to help with accommodation. In the quieter months of winter, over 75% of the houses in Lorne are unoccupied, but in summer the town is full. There are now over 300 properties in the Lorne region listed on Airbnb and this must have an effect upon available accommodation.

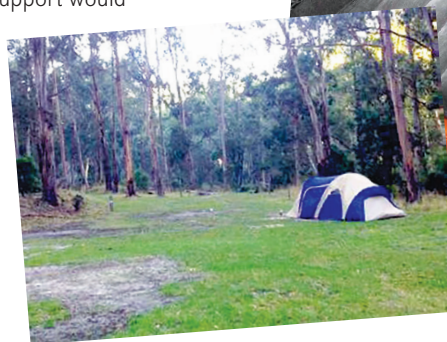
The dramatic shortage of seasonal worker accommodation will have an impact on all Lorne businesses, particularly those in the hospitality sector. It's a knock-on effect – hard to attract staff if they can't find accommodation, therefore hard to

offer extended hours of trading to meet summer demand if no staff available. For most businesses, it's the summer season, Christmas to Australia Day, that generates a very large percentage of the year's revenue. For many they hope to collect 40% of their annual revenue in that five-week period. Being constrained by staff shortages caused by lack of accommodation is just another cause of stress that businesses could do without.

So, here's a call-out to homeowners in Lorne. If you see these posts from our seasonal workers looking for accommodation and you have some space, a spare room for example, would you consider helping out? If you would like to offer accommodation for our seasonal workers, you can contact us at info@lovelorne.com or drop in and see me at Lorne Central.

I know your support would be much appreciated.

Bryce Newcombe
President
Lorne
Business
& Tourism
Association



COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In what has to be one of the biggest financial commitments in the history of Lorne, the Federal Government, through our local member Sarah Henderson MP, took center stage at the Lorne Angling and Aquatic Club (LAAC) for the big announcement. On Saturday last, Sarah Henderson committed a total of \$8m for the Point Grey Precinct, including an allocation specifically to the Lorne Angling and Aquatic Club of \$900,000.

In what was an historic announcement for Victoria's first City Deal announced by the Federal Government, Geelong, The Great Ocean Road Region, and Sarah's electorate of Corangamite, were big winners with Lorne and Apollo Bay assured of financial contributions totaling \$20M for Point Grey and the Apollo Bay Harbour respectively

amongst a raft of other financial pledges for the region.

It's been a long journey for the Lorne Community, with first discussions around Point Grey commencing back in 2007 and for the first time, it appears that the delivery of an outcome is within sight. A lot of water has gone under the bridge (or the pier), many plans have been presented and many opinions have been expressed and exhibited along the journey. The landmark announcement effectively presses the green light for the project to proceed but there is still much work to be done.

The current outcomes are a great reward for those that have been working behind the scenes on this project for over a decade and with input from a large number of local Community Groups, individuals and the wider

community stakeholders, it is one of the most thorough, and ongoing, consultation processes undertaken in Lorne. Even before the final detailed design is stamped, everyone in this Community can feel part of the process that has seen the delivery of the largest contribution of Government Funding in our history.

A lot off the "heavy lifting" is now complete but equally, the final designs and "cultural values and heritage" aspects are still requiring ongoing work and your continuing input is vital, but it's an exciting time given the biggest hurdle was always going to be that of funding.

At Saturday evening's announcement at the LAAC past Commodores, Committee members and a great cross section of the community listened intently as Sarah

announced the \$8m contribution. In Sarah's words "This is a very significant investment into a local project which will deliver a real boost to the Great Ocean Road visitor economy. Some 6.2 million people visit the Great Ocean Road region each year and the Point Grey redevelopment will make a real difference to the local community."

On behalf of the Committee for Lorne we look forward to continuing our advocacy for the project and building on our strong relationship within the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee to assist in delivering a project for all to be proud of. And it goes without saying a very big thank you to Sarah Henderson!!!!

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne