

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 15 Carols on the Lorne,**
St Cuthbert's Church Lorne,
sausage sizzle from 6:30pm and
carols from 7:30pm
- 16 Carols in the Marsh,**
Christmas fun for Community,
family & friends. 6pm Deans Marsh
Reserve.
- 28 Lorne Falls Music & Art
Festival,** Dec 28 – 1 Jan

Lorne CFA Brigade

Members awarded citation for courage

On Sunday the 30th of April 2017 at 1.34am the Lorne Fire Brigade were paged to an INCIC1 "Assist with rescue Point Grey – Lorne". Lorne Fire Brigade were the first emergency services on scene, as Ambulance Victoria were at Anglesea conducting a patient transfer and Victoria Police were also in Torquay.

The incident was further determined to be a 25 year old male who had fallen into the water from the end of the Lorne Pier as a result of a medical event. On arrival, the first crew on Lorne Tanker 1, consisting of First Lieutenant Lee Hollmer, Second Lieutenant Neil Hillard and Fire fighter Sam Tipping, found an unconscious male in the water along with two other males. The group had been fishing on the pier when the victim fell unconscious into the water. The friends had thrown a life ring from the pier into the water, and then entered the water to assist. On the brigade's arrival they found the two males who had entered the water also required assistance as they were not strong swimmers and began to suffer from hypothermia. The crew believe these friends were only a short time from becoming victims themselves. The victim had now been in the water for some time and the brigade members quickly identified the seriousness of the situation.

Lieutenant Hillard, quickly gathered information from bystanders and tasked them to assist. Lieutenant Hollmer removed his Fire Fighting clothing and entered the dark, cold water over 7 metres below the pier deck and with the assistance of two other males in wetsuits who also entered the water, they helped the victim's friends from the water via the ladder on the pier and then helped Lieutenant Hollmer keep the patient's head above water.

The crew were unable to lift the unconscious patient via the ladder on the pier due the height of the pier above the water line and they determined the best course of action was to use a rope and tow the victim and rescuers along the pier to the edge of the shore, approximately 100 metres. This "thinking outside the square" decision was to prove critical in saving the life of the victim. This was not an easy task for either the people in the water or on the pier. The difficulty for Lieutenant Hollmer was in hanging onto the rope, whilst trying to keep the victim's head above the water in a large swell. Lieutenant Hillard and Firefighter Tipping had the task of hauling the four people in the water, which included the unconscious victim, at least a hundred metres along the pier to the shore.

On getting the victim to the shore it was discovered he was wearing two pairs of pants and several jumpers to keep warm while fishing and this

additional clothing was weighing him down.

The other brigade members who arrived later, then assisted the Ambulance Victoria crew who were waiting on the shore with first aid and resuscitation. The patient was placed in a medically induced coma and transported to Geelong Hospital in a critical condition. He was discharged four days later, walking from the hospital; an amazing outcome considering the circumstances.

The victim was in the water for over 30 minutes and the Ambulance crew who attended did not expect the victim to survive. He had swallowed a lot of water and was also suffering hypothermia with a very low body

temperature. Ambulance crews spent some time resuscitating the victim before transporting him via road as the atmospheric conditions were not suitable for the air ambulance.

The crew on Lorne tanker 1 were faced with an event outside of their normal training as firefighters but adapted their knowledge, conducted a risk assessment and took swift action which resulted in the saving of a life. The leadership and decision making of Lieutenant Hillard, along with the bravery of Lieutenant Hollmer to enter the water placing himself at risk and the actions of the crew have been recognised by being awarded the Chief Officer's Unit Citation for courage.



COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

It's been very interesting to read about the joint proposal that the Lorne Community Hospital and Otway Health Boards have been pursuing over the past eighteen months exploring the integration and strengthening of our local health services. During this time, both boards have been investigating the ability to share resources to ensure the long term sustainability of existing services.

The exploration has identified additional opportunities for a sustainable health service along the Great Ocean Road and as a result, Lorne Community Hospital and Otway Health are considering seeking approval from the Minister for Health and Human Services to combine operations under a single entity.

As with any proposal, it is important that both communities are kept well informed, have access to full information and are able to have input to this project. Accordingly, both entities are inviting community members to be involved a series of "tea and talk" discussions. You are invited to a friendly chat over a cup of tea with members of the Lorne Community Hospital Board and the CEO, Kate Gillan, to discuss the views about both entities combining as one.

You are asked to register your interest to engage in these sessions and you can do so by simply contacting the Lorne Community Hospital on 5289 4386 or administration@swarh.vic.gov.au. Make sure you do as this a milestone event in

health service delivery for our region.

On Friday last, memories of the dangers of wildfire came flooding back as fires showed their unpredictability with out of control grass incidents in the Lara region. At the start of our bushfire season it was a harsh reminder how we all need to be on full alert and well planned over the coming months. It's a stark reality that the environment in which we live is high risk and we need to be prepared.

While many of us were busy meeting Christmas deadlines and preparing for the high-volume tourism months that lay ahead and others were completing their final preparations for Christmas in Lorne, we also had members of our Community from these groups and others that were

called in to assist with management of the aftermath of last week's fires. Again, our volunteers out in full force to assist above and beyond!

The Annual General Meeting of the Committee for Lorne is scheduled for 5.30m Friday afternoon at the Stribling Reserve multi-purpose room and so comes down the curtain on our sixth year of operation. I would like to thank those Committee members that have represented their individual Community Groups and been advocates over the past twelve months for the town we all love!

Ian Stewart
Chairman - Committee for Lorne

A word from the Chairman