

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

#### 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**

## Schoolies is safely over

# Thanks to Red Frogs

**Red Frogs aims to provide a positive peer presence to young people, as they navigate the alcohol-fuelled environments that tend to arise in the years post-high school. Lorne sees about 3,500 school leavers on its streets at the conclusion of the school year.**

This highly concentrated population of partiers can bring with it complications, both for the Lorne community, and for these young people who are the future leaders and decision makers of our country. Red Frogs had 54 volunteers in Lorne this year, each with the sole intention of seeing every school leaver return home safely, having had a positive interaction with the Red Frogs and the wider Lorne community.

In Lorne, Red Frogs has been working under a Surf Coast Shire initiative called Good Times Great Breaks (GTGB) in order to achieve its above mentioned KPIs. This initiative very effectively allows our volunteers to work closely with other organisations in Lorne such as Victoria Police, YSAS (Youth Support and Advocacy Service) and Security in order to facilitate a time of safe celebration.

Essentially, our volunteers are the “ears on the ground”, the surrogate older siblings and the immediate

responders in most schoolies-related incidents that occur throughout this time. We’ve found that as a result of years of building trust in the Red Frogs name, we are almost always the first call these schoolies make in every scenario. This enables us to be powerful supporters of the schoolies and other stakeholders who, by our presence, are released to do what they are best qualified for. We can provide the emotional support, so that YSAS can take the lead in scenarios of serious drug and alcohol use; we calm nerves and provide distraction so that security can focus on real risks to safety; we hold hair back over toilets so that ambos can attend to acutely unwell people; and we can direct information to Police in order to pre-empt deteriorating situations.

The GTGB program allows for us to log and track how effectively we are achieving our mission in Lorne. This year, our “Froggers” logged 54,000 interactions with schoolies over the week. Interactions can be anything as simple as a hello and a high five, to an ambulance call at 5am. As a team, we responded to 149 red or yellow calls, which are situations that may have warranted the presence of an ambulance if it weren’t for the team-work between Red Frogs and YSAS. We did 153 pancake

cook-ups in various accommodation blocks, which serve as an important distraction technique from binge-drinking culture, and mean the young people are accompanying their alcohol consumption with some food intake. Lastly, our bus drivers safely took 2,335 schoolies off the streets and to their accommodation throughout the week. Statistically, schoolies is one of the most dangerous periods of a person’s life in Australia. These GTGB numbers reflect the mammoth effort put in by all the safety responders in Lorne to put preventative measures in place before life-altering decisions are made.

This massive effort would not be possible without the generous donation of \$10,000 that we have received from the Lorne Op Shop in both 2017 and 2018. It is this money that provides our beds and our meals for the week. Each volunteer frogger pays to be involved, to the tune of over \$300pp, but that does not reach anywhere close to covering our expenses. We would, therefore, like to extend a public

thank you to the Lorne Op Shop for so generously allowing us to have impact on such a large scale in Lorne. Each of our team has such passion to see these young people return to their parents the same way they arrived, and your support has been absolutely critical in ensuring our ability to do so. Finally, thank you to the Lorne community for welcoming us every November. It has become, for many of us, a home away from home.

#### **Evangeline McCoy**

*Lorne Location Leader  
Red Frogs Australia*

**REDFROGS**  
AUSTRALIA



## COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Last Friday, the Committee for Lorne held its seventh Annual General Meeting and as we embark on our eighth year of operation, it’s a good time to reflect on the past twelve months and “reset our sights” for what may lay ahead. But there’s one thing for certain – none of this happens without the continued tireless input from so many within the Lorne Community.

Across so many organisations and groups there are so many individuals volunteering on so many different levels. From the Lorne Men’s Shedders making goal posts for our junior soccer players, our many officials and helpers around our local clubs, the team at the Lorne Community Op Shop, our State Emergency Service personnel to our award-winning members at our local CFA it’s easy to give back to our Community when so many are doing the same.

Joining the Committee for Lorne for the first time this year we have Karen Stribling representing our young Lorne families and as an active member of the Lorne Business Tourism Association (LBTA) it is great to have another talented young female on the team. David Worth being one of Lorne’s newer permanent residents also joins the team and as treasurer of the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club (LAAC) his passion to want to be involved in this community is inspiring.

The final new member to the team is Paul Upham whose business interests at the Lorne Hotel, a young local family and involvement with the LBTA, combine to make Paul a great acquisition to the full 12-person Committee. Outgoing members include Karen Biggelaar - Lorne School, Graeme Norton - LAAC whom we thank for their input over recent years.

Our new members join Carly Enticott, Kate Gillan, Graham Brawn, Alain Purnell, Chris Tutungi, Ian Brown, Tony Elder – Secretary, Peter Spring - Vice Chair and me as Chairman of the elected Committee for Lorne for 2019. It is shaping as big twelve months with the review of the Lorne Strategy Plan, 2003 the “big rock” on the agenda.

For the development of a new Structure Plan for Lorne, the Committee for Lorne (CfL) has been lobbying hard to see the adoption of a governance model similar to what was used for the successful Stribling Reserve Master Planning process which proved to be a very productive partnership between the Surf Coast Shire and our local community. We recognise that a Strategy Plan is different to a Master Plan but we are hopeful that

principles of “partnership” will be integral to the model that is adopted.

Members of the CfL are currently in discussions with senior Surf Coast Shire Officers, as we work to develop a governance model for the process, that the Shire are comfortable with and Lorne Community can feel part of and look to adopt as their own. As these discussions evolve, we look forward to keeping you informed of the outcomes.

In closing and on behalf of the CfL we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and personally I would like to thank all who have supported me in this role over previous years – thank you.

#### **Ian Stewart**

*Chairman - Committee for Lorne*

## A word from the Chairman