

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

P.O Box 168, Lorne 3232. info@committeeforlorne.org.au www.cfl.org.au ☎0438 843 258

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

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 18-20** Deans Marsh Dog Trials, 8am start, Deans Marsh Reserve
- 20** Festival of Colours, Lorne Foreshore 11am – 4pm
- 26** Lorne Foreshore Market, 10am – 4pm
- 26** Australia Day Social Tennis Tournament, Lorne Country Club 9am – 1pm

Summer of fun with Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club

What could be more at the heart of summer in Lorne than the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club (LAAC) at the pier head opposite the timeless Pier Restaurant?

This is where generations have gathered for decades. Always a meeting place, it plays a particularly central role in the social life of the town from Christmas through to Easter but most especially during January when it is invigorated by a seasonal influx of visitors with large numbers in attendance from early morning as cyclists, joggers and walkers pause for coffee and then return when the small bar opens late in the afternoon. This is when old acquaintances are renewed, and new ones forged whether it be people from the caravan parks, casual visitors or politicians and government representatives including the Governor of Victoria who may often be seen in there. One annual visitor, a chap who holidays in Lorne from his home in London, is emphatic in his pronouncement that it is one of the finest venues anywhere in the world.

The month peaks with the Pier to Pub swim as entrants enter the water down the Aquatic Club ramp – loaned for this specific purpose every year - and winds up with the first fishing competition of the year on the Australia Day weekend. It is very much a family-oriented club and juniors are well represented in

the many fishing competitions. The LAAC is progressive with its unique and cleverly designed points system and is a model other clubs have used as a basis for their own competitions. Regular tweaking keeps it running smoothly; just don't ask this writer to explain the finer points of how the calculations are made! The annual competition is held over six holiday weekends and there is a winter competition as well which runs from May through August, so a total of ten competition days a year, every year. It is probably the most active competition-based club anywhere along the Great Ocean Road. There were one hundred and sixty one entrants in 2018. Contestants sometimes come from Colac, Geelong and Ballarat.

Volunteers from the strong committee chaired by Keith Miller, provide free barbecues most evenings, there are raffles and often there is a band playing against a backdrop of a magnificent coastal panorama and to make it easy for visitors, the courtesy bus runs every day as well. Traditionally, every night, families meet up to enjoy the special ambience and the view. Generations of the same family have celebrated milestones there since 1960. As a community hub it works harmoniously and makes people from all walks of life feel welcome. LAAC is firmly embedded in the community and as an intrinsic part of Lorne culture it is able to make regular donations to a great many

worthy local causes, such as the Lorne Hospital, local sporting clubs, the Men's Shed and the school. Fund-raising is a strong feature of its mandate. Sarah Henderson, Member for Corangamite, recently announced a very generous grant from the Federal government which will allow the LAAC to rebuild an up to date clubhouse as part of the proposed redevelopment of the Point Grey precinct.

Our current clubhouse is tired and in need of an update, but this does

not stop us functioning as an integral contributor to summer in Lorne.

Doug Williams

*Vice Commodore
Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club*



COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

The GMHBA Pier to Pub Swim was a huge weekend for Lorne and under sunny skies the event attracted massive interest Australia wide and also received coverage on many national television stations. The world's largest open water swim is an event that the Lorne Surf Club can be truly proud of and their volunteer team of over 500 do an amazing job to ensure the event runs like clockwork.

This year's event was marred by the tragic passing of Murray Howard who suffered a fatal heart attack during his twentieth pier to pub swim. Murray, a non-permanent resident of Lorne, was very well known to many and was one of the friendliest gentlemen you could ever wish to meet. Our thoughts and wishes are with the entire Howard family

through this very difficult time.

The 39th annual swim saw two Queensland juniors in Hayden Cotter and Lani Pallister take out the male and female super fish events respectively, while Lorne swimmers also performed exceptionally well. To see four Lorne junior swimmers finish in the top twenty of the open division was an outstanding achievement and made even more special knowing that all four came through the Lorne Surf Club nipper and junior programs.

But the young ones weren't the only top twenty performers as Lorne's Randall Forsyth secured a top twenty finish in his division, Tim Boness won the Veterans and many other local residents did exceptionally well to complete the event. And a big pat on the back to our local

agencies who dealt with the weekend rubbish and cleaning of the Foreshore and Mountjoy Parade after the enormous influx of visitors.

Congratulations to Ellie O'Kane, our physiotherapist at Lorne Community Hospital who, "set the course alight" in Friday's Mountain to Surf Run, finishing first in her division and setting a new course record

There appears to be some "town rivalry" building between the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club and the Lorne Country Club if the January "cheeky" Bulletin from the former is to be any guide. After many years in recess, the historical perpetual golf trophy that dates back to the 1960's is being revived. In an interesting commentary the Commodore of the Anglers has challenged the "Nansy

Pansies" at the Country Club for a winner take all golf tournament.

Etch into your diary Sunday February 10 as the big day at the Lorne Country Club when the keen on course fun and rivalry will be followed by a spit roast and refreshments and all are invited to attend. Interesting footnote to the Anglers article that they are "looking" for members to join their team to ensure they give the "Nansy Pansies" a hiding, and its also been rumored that fresh fish, and a few free refreshments, are being offered to those competent golfers prepared to sign on with the Anglers – Good to see that local rivalry is alive and well.

Ian Stewart

Chairman - Committee for Lorne

A word from the Chairman