

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 9** Victorian Surf Life Saving Masters State Championships, at Lorne beach
- 23** Victorian Surf Life Saving State Junior Carnival, at Lorne beach

### MARCH

- 3** Clean Up Australia Day, Meet at the LAAC at 9am. Bring gloves & Sunblock.
- 24** Deans Marsh Festival, Live music, local harvest, market stalls, dog jumping, kids events, and much more. 10 am – 5pm at Deans Marsh Oval.



# Australia Day in Lorne

## Tin Hill – Who remembers?

**On the Australia Day weekend just passed, we received an email at Lorne Historical Society enquiring as to whether we had much material on “Tin Hill”. That same weekend a friend who grew up in Lorne asked, “Is Tin Hill still going?”**

“Tin Hill” was an Australia Day ritual for many, starting in the mid ‘70s. Initially we believe it was a gathering at the Pacific Hotel to celebrate the day with some “refreshments”. Then, someone came up with the bright idea to move the gathering place to Tin Hill. The official name for Tin Hill is Stradbroke Point. It is the small hillock just before Grassy Creek on the way to Lorne. This was the site of the first toll booth on the Great Ocean Road, opened in 1922.

The pilgrimage to Tin Hill involved clambering into the back of one of Roache’s tip trucks equipped with copious

supplies of “refreshments” and after a parade through Mountjoy Parade, proceeding to Grassy Creek, ascending Tin Hill and hoisting the Australian flag to celebrate Australia Day whilst imbibing as a means of coping with the summer heat.

In later years, the event became more organised and T Shirts were printed specially for the occasion containing messages of encouragement for the coming year, such as; “Place to be in ‘83” and “Drink more in ‘84”.

There are a number of anecdotes around the shenanigans which took place on this pilgrimage. One such story relates to a local identity who will remain nameless, who, in a rather unstable condition, actually fell out of the back of the tip truck when it hit a hole in the road. Fortunately, his very relaxed condition allowed him to absorb the impact by rolling along the road thus

preventing injury.

It’s doubtful in this day and age whether Tin Hill could continue, and it certainly wouldn’t get an Event Permit given some of the OH&S issues. A zero tolerance policy on drink driving would also impact the annual event. There is a story that, back in the day, the Lorne police were aware of the event and wanted to nab the offenders. The police regularly patrolled the Great Ocean Road between Lorne and Aireys Inlet and kept an eye on the antics at Tin Hill to see if they could apprehend the offenders. The Tin Hill mob kept a watch on the patrol and once the police car had passed Grassy Creek, heading towards Aireys, the Tin Hill mob would bundle into the tip truck and make a run for Lorne before the police turned around at Aireys and headed back.

Alan Roache found that the easiest way to get his passengers to “disembark” upon

return to the Pacific Hotel, was to just raise the tipper and slide his passengers out!

This is just some of the folklore of Tin Hill. The Lorne Historical Society would like to compile more information about this unique chapter of Lorne’s culture. If you have stories or photos or any other material, we would love to hear from you. We have reached out in the past for more information on aspects of Lorne’s history and we have received a very positive response. Hopefully this will occur again. We are happy to scan any material onto our history databases and return original material to you. If you have any material or stories you can provide, please contact us at [info@lornehistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:info@lornehistoricalsociety.org.au) or leave a message on our telephone at 03 5289 1191.

**Peter Spring**  
*Lorne Historical Society*

## COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

## A word from the Chairman

With Australia Day 2019 now behind us and all the publicity, both good and bad, starting to subside I love to reflect on the recipients of the Australia Day awards around our country. This year with special interest to see one of our own be being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community through emergency response organisations.

After almost 50 years as a CFA member, and the past 23 as Captain of the Wye River Fire Brigade, Roy Moriarty was awarded the OAM in the annual Australia Day awards and so deservingly so.

Those that know Roy well know that he does so much for his community over and above the specific recognition of the Australia Day honors for his service to emergency response.

I read with interest how one of the highlights of Roy’s career with the Wye River CFA cantered around the community’s willingness to embrace various measures the group had introduced, including an evacuation plan in the early 80’s – one of the first of its kind. Roy was also at the forefront of the development of a township protection plan in the 90’s, a major asset protection plan in the late 90’s and much more. Congratulations Roy, so very well deserved!

Australia Day celebrations were varied across Lorne through the weekend from a completion of a golf tournament, live Lorne music, tennis tournaments, fishing competitions, foreshore markets and long lunches but it was from two of these activities that I look to share. I was fortunate enough to attend the presentation of

the Lorne Summer Classic, a January golf tournament orchestrated by a group of our non-permanent residents that has become somewhat of an institution.

This year’s event saw a tie in the open men’s event and what was to follow was an extraordinary presentation event. Event organisers Marion and Barry Church, who do such a brilliant job, had planned well for the presentation of the “winners’ jacket” in producing a pair of scissors and proceeding to cut the jacket in half and present the left side to Geoff Thomas and the right side to Russell Jones. “Baz and Maz” ensured the gathering that the jacket would be back in one piece for next year.

Great to see Lorne locals Jenny Miller, Lynda Stewart and Chris Wood take out the other major awards in overpowering

their Melbourne counterparts. It was quite noticeable that Anglers Commodore Keith Miller, was in attendance but I wasn’t sure whether it was just to support and congratulate his wife or trying to recruit golfers in preparation for the challenge between the Aquatic Club and the Country Club in a week’s time.

The sounds of music through the town over the weekend continued the great summer vibe and I was saddened to hear that future events may be in jeopardy because of the noise factor – surely not!!! With 11-00pm curfews in place, these great well attended events are so Lorne and after all, it is a summer of celebration

**Ian Stewart**  
*Chairman - Committee for Lorne*