

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

P.O Box 168, Lorne 3232. [info@committeeforlorne.org.au](mailto:info@committeeforlorne.org.au) [www.cfl.org.au](http://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](mailto:info@committeeforlorne.org.au)

## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 13 Lorne vs Apollo Bay**, First home game of the season at Stribling Reserve.
- 14 Model Boat Regatta**. Run by Lorne Men's Shed. 10am till 2pm at Swingbridge.
- 18 Lorne Easter Art Show**, Opening night Thur 7:30pm, Fri-Sun 10am-5pm, Mon 10-12 at Senior Citizens Centre.
- 19 Good Friday Soirée**. Hosted by Lorne Football & Netball Club. From 6.30pm at the View, Lorne Hotel.
- 20 Lorne Kinder Easter Market**, Located on the Lorne Foreshore 9am – 4pm.
- 20 Lorne Dolphin V Birregurra**, Grand Final rematch. The Mark Trickey Memorial Cup at Stribling Reserve. This is the blockbuster game of the season.

# The Regatta on the Erskine *is Back!*

**Sailing has not ranked highly amongst aquatic sports in Lorne. But a big change – albeit with small boats – is about to take place.**

This month the Lorne Regatta of model racing yachts will hit the water. The event will take place at 10am, Sunday 14 April, at the Swing Bridge, weather permitting. Up to seven T37 American designed boats built at the Men's Shed are scheduled to compete with a range of other craft. The photos show some of the sleek yachts, whose numbers are expected to grow over time – another three are already in the pipeline – going through their paces at sunset sea trials held recently near the Erskine River mouth.

The metre long remote controlled boats have been taking shape under the talented hand and close supervision of Lorne resident Tony Wolfenden. Designer, sculptor, kite maker and now an enthusiastic model yacht builder, he is spear-heading their construction, working with a small but dedicated team at the Men's Shed applying themselves to model making, something they haven't done since childhood. Sponsors

include the Lorne Independent, various members of the Men's Shed, Lions Club, Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club, the local Bendigo Community Bank and Foodworks.

Tony hopes the regatta will lead to more frequent sailing events. "Maybe mid-week, as locals and visitors, exposed to the colourful sight of sails working their way up the Erskine River, are persuaded." In an era where cutting-edge technology like drones and other high-octane digital entertainments dominate, Tony says model yacht regattas provide a graceful and relaxing antidote. Although not too relaxing. "The skipper of a radio-controlled yacht has to concentrate on what is happening to his or her craft sometimes many metres away, in the often tricky wind changes that occur in the river mouth."

His view, to paraphrase a famous character in children's literature, is that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing around with boats. "I love sailing, making boats and seeing them under sail" says Tony. "Early last century model boating was an extremely popular

pastime, especially amongst those who could never afford a fullsize yacht. The size of model boats was originally influenced by what people could carry on public transport." He says quite a few more boats have been built by other people in town since this project began about nine months ago.

The T37 yachts are made from light-weight and flexible marine plywood that comes from the Okoume tree, native to west central Africa. The imported kits take between 30 to 50 hours to build, depending on the standard of finish. They cost about \$600 and come with everything needed to go sailing, apart from varnish, paint and batteries. They are totally wind powered and have no propeller – none of that noisy Mr Toad machine racket. The hand-held transmitter contains eight AA batteries. On-board, two tiny servo motors control a receiver that sets the sails and rudder. It uses another four batteries.

All up it's an elegant, economic, environmentally friendly pastime. And, unlike other places up and down the coast, there's no need for a bottomless wallet, slipway and crane to indulge your sailing passions in Lorne!



### Race Details

T37 yachts and model yachts of all sizes can enter the event. There is also a section for model powerboats. Trophies will be awarded to winners in each class. Special races will be held for children, with yachts provided. The event is free for participants and spectators. To enter a boat, please email [lornemensshed@gmail.com](mailto:lornemensshed@gmail.com) – or just turn up on the day!

Ernest Raetz  
*Lorne Independent*

## COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

The first of the planned burns was completed with the small section of bush bounded by Charles Street, Francis Street and George Street over the past ten days and with the larger Cora Lyn burn is still outstanding. The window of opportunity is beginning to close. With Easter fast approaching and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) communicating with many local stakeholders, it appears likely that, subject to weather, ignition of the burn will take place on Monday.

In what is a real juggle to balance the effectiveness of the burn with the least amount of disruption to visitors and holiday makers, the FFMV team have been doing all they can to time their burn with consideration to all of the above. If all goes to plan and weather conditions are

## A word from the Chairman

favorable, the burn will be complete by the end of the week, prior to the arrival of thousands for the Easter long weekend.

The Lorne Surf Club is leading its first indigenous program which is currently underway. They have established a community partnership with Gunbalanya Community School in West Arnhem Land and are bringing down 10 senior students and 2 teachers for the week. The program is led by Heath Armstrong and 13 young leaders and advanced lifesavers aged 18-30. Incidentally, this program has already had a profound response from the students and the school has seen a huge reduction in levels of truancy leading to more year 12 subject passes as well as providing 10 points towards graduation (10 points is equivalent to 1 final year subject).

Throughout the program they will learn about lifesaving and first aid, local indigenous history and culture, visit different areas of Lorne, and the surrounding areas; Queenscliff Marine Discovery Centre, have an urban experience in Melbourne, visit Bounce Inc in Essendon, the Eureka Sky Tower, and receive a private footy clinic from the Essendon Football Club – Great things happening in Lorne!

Great to be able to report on a most productive discussion with Bob Osburn and his team from Vic Roads last week and it appears that we have in principle agreement to create a working group for improving the existing guidelines and implementation of signage on the Great Ocean Road with the short term focus being Lorne.

The passing of a member of our small local community always sends ripples of emotion and heartwarming wishes to those affected most by the loss, and the past week has been no different, with the sad and sudden passing of Helen Stewart the devoted wife of Norm, for 55 years, loving mother of Tracey, Rod and Dee, mother in law of David and adored grandmother of Will, Charlie, Ollie (Dec), Tom and Lucy. Helen died peacefully at home. Helen left behind a legacy in the Lorne Community matched by very few, an infectious laugh, a heart of gold and enthusiasm for life that will forever be etched in my mind – RIP Helen Stewart!

Ian Stewart  
*Chairman - Committee for Lorne*