

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### JUNE

- 7 Committee for Lorne Luncheon**, Lorne View Room, 12pm for 12.30pm
- 8 Lorne Foreshore Market**, 10am – 4pm
- 9 LAAC Major Fishing Competition no 4**, Weigh in at 12 followed by presentations and roast lunch for competitors and members.
- 9 Worlds Best Sausage Roll Competition**, Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club 3pm to 5pm
- 22 Deans Marsh Winter Solstice**, 5 – 9 pm at the Deans Marsh Reserve.

## FOPA is back in October

**The Lorne Business and Tourism Association (LBTA), in conjunction with Lorne Community Arts and Culture Foundation (LCACF) is pleased to announce that the Festival of Performing Arts (FOPA) will be staged again this year in the first weekend of October. Did you understand all those acronyms? There will be a test later.**

FOPA was first staged in 2011 to encourage visitors to come to Lorne in the off peak months and experience a wide variety of performances including comedy, music, cabaret and something for all ages. The philosophy behind FOPA is to bring entertainment to Lorne that is not normally available outside major cities. Over the years, the FOPA team has worked closely with the School and the wider community to engage and entertain people of all ages.

Major acts to visit Lorne and participate in FOPA have included Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Djuki Mala, the aboriginal dance team from Arnhem Land, who in recent years have been touring the world to critical acclaim. We have also hosted world renowned music and cabaret acts.

The program for 2019 is coming together now and as in previous years, there will be a Gala night showcasing many of the acts who will appear over the weekend. There will be street performers and the chance to part of a choir learning and subsequently performing sea shanties as a homage to the place in which we live and its rich history of the sea.

Each year, a team of volunteers from LBTA works diligently to plan and stage FOPA. The team engages the company responsible for the Melbourne Cabaret Festival to recommend performers for the program and engage those performers for the weekend of the Festival. It's a time-consuming project, but the rewards make it worthwhile. The main objective since that first Festival in 2011 is to promote Lorne as a destination in the off-peak season and to provide a weekend of performance so that people will stay in Lorne and enjoy not only the Festival, but all that Lorne has to offer.

Statistics from previous years show that there is a significant increase in visitors to Lorne on the weekend of FOPA. Increasing visitation is important, but just as important is to stage and event for the people of Lorne. The Gala night has now become a tradition. It's the event that always sells out early and the majority of the crowd is from Lorne and the surrounding region. In making FOPA accessible to all there is a mixture of ticketed events, free events and street entertainment. This year the date has been shifted to coincide with the second week of the school holidays and the program has been structured to provide a range of entertainment for children of all ages.

We hope that this year, by holding the event in the school holidays we can attract an even bigger audience to Lorne.

Staging FOPA is a time consuming and costly exercise. We receive financial support from the Surf Coast Shire and



a number of very generous patrons many of whom have provided support from the start. This year we have received grant funding from Geelong Community Foundation and Regional Arts Victoria and both organisations have congratulated us on staging such an ambitious event in Lorne and providing the opportunity for people in our region to experience such a rich variety of entertainment.

We are always looking for more support, however. Whether by way of cash contribution or by volunteering to help during the staging of the event. Since FOPA began in 2011, there have been many examples of financial and in-kind support. In each case, our supporters have made a real difference. Their donations enabled us to take

the risks we needed to continuously improve FOPA, securing iconic artists to developing a program of rich variety which offers something for everyone.

Each of our patrons, sponsors and in-kind supporters have made a tangible impact, contributing to the festival program and the viability and sustainability of an event which is now firmly entrenched in Lorne's arts calendar.

If you would like to help us by either volunteering or making a donation, we would love to hear from you. Donations of \$100 or more are tax deductible. Please contact us at [info@fopa.com.au](mailto:info@fopa.com.au)

*Thank you in anticipation of your support*

**The Team at FOPA**

## COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

Those close to Lorne will have continued to notice the works going on at the Stribling Reserve Oval with the erection of the steel structure for the new electronic scoreboard coming out of the ground and foundations and footings for the four new light towers going deep into the ground. After one of the driest early autumn periods on record just as these works started, so did the weather begin to change. As heavy machinery and concrete trucks prepared to complete the scheduled works, the heavens opened and have been somewhat relentless since. The bad weather has meant that the new light towers will not be installed till the end of the footy season. In order to install the towers, the contractors need a sixty tonne crane on the oval. The risk of damage to the surface has been assessed as too great and hence the reason for the delay.

The outcome has seen the need to

## A word from the Chairman

transfer this weekend's scheduled home game against Colac Imperials to the Western Oval in Colac. The Stribling Reserve Committee of Management are confident that the Stribling Reserve will be fit to host Lorne's next home game on the 17th of June; fingers crossed that the weather gods will be kind.

This slight inconvenience pales into insignificance, given the home games will be returned to Lorne on the return journey to Lorne later in the year. I "remember when" prior to the current facilities at the multi-purpose centre of the Stribling Reserve, all we had at the reserve was an ancient small home and visitor change room facility with "third world" shower and toilet facilities.

To make way for the current complex, the old were totally demolished and temporary change rooms, showers and toilet facilities were created in tents behind the old library

hall (site of the current Police Station). Hot water was not an option, ground access was a steep uphill climb, but fun was aplenty. At this same time our permanent population facilitated a very lively female weekly Friday night netball competition – Such good times in "Old Lorne".

Tomorrow we look forward to welcoming the representatives of the Surf Coast Shire for two important functions, albeit different in nature. We kick off the day with a working group bringing together community, Shire Council and Great Ocean Road Coast Committee representatives to try and define the next stage of work in "Accommodating Lorne's Future". Guided by a Shire facilitator we will be focussing on listening, thinking, sharing, agreeing and disagreeing on how we work together to help achieve the Aspirations we have for Lorne.

At lunch time, the Committee for

Lorne will be hosting our 2nd community luncheon for 2019 and we are fortunate in having Surf Coast Shire Mayor Rose Hodge, CEO Keith Baillie and Chris Pike, Manager of Culture and Community, as our guest speakers. We have continued to build on the collaborative approach, relationships and trust that have been building over recent years. We have come a long way of recent times and the excitement is building for Lorne's future.

A very last chance to register for tomorrow's Lorne community lunch from 12 noon at the View at the Lorne Hotel which is certain to be one of our most informative of 2019 but you must RSVP to [nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au](mailto:nicole@greatoceanroadrealestate.com.au) by the end of today.

**Ian Stewart**

*Chairman - Committee for Lorne*