

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

What an amazing weekend in town and who would have thought that Lorne would ever experience such a huge crowd on the last weekend in August to say goodbye to winter. The organisers of the Love Lorne Campaign and Lorne Festival are to be congratulated for all their hard work and dedication in producing the best performing arts festival yet.

We know the group have a great bunch of dedicated people, but the cream on the cake comes with the Lorne people who volunteer and go out of their way to add their support and ensure everyone is well looked after. No better example to me than when organizers were in need of labour to install the self-locking floor mat in the large Circus Oz tent, local tiler Jim Waterson puts up his hand – but no not to lay tiles.

'Wattos' son Riley is captain of the Lorne U/17 football team and he seconded a few of his mates to lend a hand to ensure the floor was securely laid and in place for the big week ahead – well done boys, the town is lucky to have you!

It was a big week for the entire town and one that lifted the bar even higher for our future festival experiences.

To hear that our local Councillor Clive and his wife Lesley played host to the team from the Aboriginal dance group Djuki Mala for their duration in Lorne, is another shining example of the commitment of our local community. Then to see the Aboriginal boys out on our local foody ground last Thursday night snapping goals from impossible angles with a couple of our local kids was a sight to see.

The Echo Island boys might have been a long way from home, and in our cold winter conditions, but by the time you read this they will have completed their first performance in Vancouver. You can rest assured the hospitality and friendship they were shown in Lorne will be with them forever!

While on footy the Lorne Dolphins still have two teams running deep into finals action. The Lorne U/14.5's and Reserve football teams will line up in the Preliminary final on Saturday against Alvie and Irrewarra- Beecac respectively and we wish the boys well in their quest to play in the 2015 Grand Final.

Isn't it hard when a loved one or mate is battling an illness where there appears only to be an outcome that no one wants to hear. You don't know whether to drop in, ring, send an SMS or just stay silent – what's the correct answer in dealing with an end result that we know is just not fair? To me its communication in any way you feel comfortable!

*Jan Stewart*

IAN STEWART  
CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

## COMMUNITY THE STAR OF THE LORNE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Lorne community stole the show at the 2015 Lorne Arts Festival.

An army of local volunteers joined Festival Producers, Penny Whitehead and Monique Harvey, in delivering our edgiest, most patronised festival since its inception five years ago. Collectively, performances attracted over 4,000 visitors to Lorne to experience a dizzying array of artistic genres. In the lead up to the weekend Festival, workshops with performers were held with regional school children.

The Cabaret Performance on the Festival's opening night began with a Welcome to Country by the Gunditjmarra and Kirrae Whurrong families. Exquisite MC Yana Alannah then peppered the audience with her sardonic take on feminism, self-help and politics while presenting Festival performers.

The Arts precinct was alive early on Saturday as hundreds descended onto the Tent to see the Pitts Family Circus. For many children, it was their first 'Big Top' experience and the rambunctious response was brilliant to see.

As performances proceeded in the Festival Tent, Grand Pacific Hotel, Lorne Hotel, Cuda Bar, QDos, throughout Saturday and Sunday, the Lorne community was buzzing.

The Festival soared to great heights on Saturday evening with YouTube sensations Djuki Mala: Chookie Dancers. The young Indigenous men from Elcho Island in Arnhem Land began their extraordinary performance with traditional dance then overwhelmed the audience by playfully bouncing through an assortment of challenging dance genres. Their score spanned Zorba the Greek and Bollywood sounds to the heady beats of Techtronic, Michael Jackson and Motown legends, The Ronettes and The Platters.

Sunday's final Festival Tent performance was a free community event showcasing Lorne and Aireys Inlet P-12 School artists. Jack O'Conner (Grade 6) stunned with his skilfully nonchalant stand-up comedy and as we listened to haunting Indie sounds of Stella Caon (Year 8) and band Mirrors Image, we wondered if we were watching mega-stars in the making. It was fitting that the fifth Lorne Arts Festival should then close with an inspiring speech by proud School Principal Karen Biggelaar.

Early research results suggests the flow-on-effect for local business was clear and measurable with many accommodation providers reporting a solid bounce in bookings, with many completely booked out.

Food outlets also shared the benefits. Notably, the Lorne Bowls Club served 90 a-la-carte meals in two hours on Friday with talented chefs Jorge Guerrero and John Boreham plating a meal every minute and a half!

Several retailers and cafes reported a quantifiable increase in traffic. Carly Enticott from Lick and Sip Café said "this Arts Festival was our busiest yet"



So now the formative years of the event are complete the Festival's governing body - Lorne Arts and Culture Foundation - will develop a strategic plan to ensure revitalization. A core goal of this future blueprint will be to design a self-sufficient funding model to immunize the Festival against Federal and State funding fluctuations. In 2015, our funding saviours have been our Presenting Partner Surf Coast Shire and Principal Partners Circus OZ, Mantra Lorne, the Falls Festival, Geelong Community Foundation, Little Creatures Brewery and Austins & Co Winery (who have converted the entire town to drinking Prosecco in one weekend!).

In 2016, the Festival will showcase youth theatre specialists Polyglot who will bring two extraordinary productions to Lorne; Paper Planet and Ants. See more at [www.polyglot.com.au](http://www.polyglot.com.au). We are applying for grants, reaching out to patrons and renewing strategic partnerships to secure this project.

**More than ever, the future of the Lorne Arts Festival relies on great people, great performances and great community partnerships.**

We invite community feedback on the 2015 Lorne Arts Festival by emailing us at [info@lovelorne.com.au](mailto:info@lovelorne.com.au)

PETER SPRING & SUSANNAH SPRAGUE  
LORNE COMMUNITY ARTS & CULTURE  
FOUNDATION



PHOTOS: Leon Walker Photography



JEANETTE HANCOCK

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

Inspired by relatives living here already, Jeanette, husband James and their two children moved to Lorne from New Zealand eight years ago. Soon after though, they made a decision to move to Queensland. It didn't take many months for them to discover how much they were missing Lorne and to realise what a great place this was to raise their two children. Back they came.

Jeanette, a natural athlete, had played netball, basketball and rugby, so was welcomed and embraced by the local Netball and Football Club. Not only does she play but coaches the under 15 'Dolphins' Netball Team.

Currently she works in property management at Great Ocean Road Real Estate but before that spent 15 years in hospitality. "I've always been interested in re-educating myself so this is a good challenge." Husband James works at The Grand Pacific Hotel.

Seven year old son, Logan and fourteen year old daughter, Xaliya attend the Lorne School. Xaliya's favourite subjects are physical education, especially netball, and english. She would like to take time off when she finishes school to travel before embarking on study to become a marine biologist. She loves the beach, hanging out with friends in the town and making new friends over summer. She misses her New Zealand cousins and loves seeing them when the family takes their annual holiday to reconnect with their relatives.

Jeanette says there is no doubt that Lorne is their home now.

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### LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

#### SEPTEMBER

- 6 LAAC Winter Fishing Competition No. 5**, weigh-in at 12:15, free Father's Day BBQ lunch at 1pm.
- 8 LAAC Committee meeting**, guest speaker Heather Ramp, Lorne Hospital.
- 12-13 Amy's Gran Fondo**, long course bike ride from Lorne to Skenes Creek to Deans Marsh and back to Lorne
- 15 Community Forum to discuss Torquay Pool**, 6pm at the Senior Citizens Centre
- 27 Deans Marsh Market**, 9am to 2pm at Deans Marsh Hall and Reserve. Enquiries - 5236 3388 or [market@deansmarsh.org.au](mailto:market@deansmarsh.org.au)

Please forward the dates of your Lorne Ward community event via the contact details at the bottom of this page.

COMMITTEE FOR LORNE



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