

# THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

There is no better time on the coast than Spring, and the run of weather through last weekend and beyond is I am sure only a taste of what lies ahead. To drive the Great Ocean Road at a time when visitor numbers are yet to explode, on days like we've had, provide an experience, that in my opinion, cannot be matched anywhere in the world..

I hope all those dads had a great Father's Day last weekend and shared it with those most special to you. I had the pleasure of sharing a meal with my father who will celebrate his 81st birthday at the weekend. A moment in the day will be held forever on a number of fronts but none more than when my son skyped from his small boarding house room in England to my hand held iPad in our lounge room.

As always it was great to see his smiling face and listen to some of the adventures he has been up to. Equal was the emotion that filled my father with the new found technology enabling him to have face to face dialogue for the first time in nine months on a video call with his grandson 16,000 kilometres away – I don't think he will forget that!

Last week the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) released the second draft plan for the Point Grey Precinct which confirmed that the new plan would feature two buildings, with the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club in a similar position to where it currently is, and the northern access road remaining open.

I urge all those with interest to view the draft plan at [www.gorcc.com.au](http://www.gorcc.com.au) to which they are currently inviting submissions. This new plan is a massive step forward on delivering the desired outcome of the Lorne Community and with a bit of "fine tuning" I feel confident that the interests of all can be reflected with this latest plan.

Hard to believe that the Committee for Lorne is almost two years old and yet when you sit and reflect on the input from many, it seems like many years more. When elected as inaugural Chair of the Committee I commented on how I believed it was healthy to rotate roles within the group to ensure longevity and provide the opportunity.

With an Annual General Meeting coming up in the last quarter of this year I welcome an approach to myself or Nicola Muxworthy from any person who may have an interest in taking over my role for the ensuing period. I remain as passionate and committed as day one in the job and certainly still wish to be involved but do not want to stand in the way of anyone would like the same opportunity as I have been given.

*Jan Stewart*

IAN STEWART  
CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

## Telstra comes to Deans Marsh: we hope real connection is coming soon

**The internet is now a staple of modern life, used for work, study and for pleasure by families, students, professionals and businesses. Yet in Deans Marsh, we experience a form of social exclusion: we do not have effective access to mainstream technology. Our students can't do at home what their teachers require and what their classmates in Lorne, Colac and Geelong can do.**

We need help, we need improved internet connectivity and maybe now, after a direct approach to Telstra, help is on the way. Telstra Country Wide came in force to Deans Marsh on Wednesday August 20 and real connection might be coming to our community.

Sixty people came to the Deans Marsh Hall – and another twenty-five sent apologies – to voice their very real concerns to Telstra directly about no ADSL availability, and the poor and very expensive wireless phone and internet coverage.

Although it looks tiny as you drive through – just the General Store, Martians of course and the school and church, Deans Marsh and district has a growing, thriving and diverse community. Yet we don't have ADSL or effective community-wide mobile phone/internet coverage.

At the moment our mobile phone tower only supports 3G coverage and we do not have ADSL available on our landline system: usage is so great and the coverage provided so poor that some people in the township have no phone coverage in their homes. Internet access via mobile broadband is sporadic and the pricing structure prohibitive. Use of internet that all other communities in our region take for granted – video streaming, downloading e-books, video teleconferencing – are simply not options for the Deans Marsh community.

We have senior staff from international corporations living here trying to work from home, who may be forced to move interstate because they can't download work requirements, let alone have teleconferences. Some days they can't even log on. We have school and uni students who can't download at home the research documents they need to do their studies, participate in online forums, or download the relevant curricula or forms to apply for student allowances. We have business owners who cannot correspond effectively with clients and suppliers. We have a community nurse who will be unable to use online devices to help community members with their medical problems at home.

Then there is the safety issue. We live in one of Victoria's most fire-prone regions and we need access to the same communication technologies as others to monitor situations in times of bushfire. But with increasing traffic coming through our town, the mobile network is strained to capacity, directly



Bill Mundy from Telstra listens to Marshians' concerns.

affecting our ability to access information. As well, many people from all over Australia and the world find themselves lost in our area without effective mobile or internet coverage.

ADSL, with its speed and pricing structures would resolve those issues that now affect significantly the way people here live our lives.

The coverage we do have is also absurdly expensive. My downloads via wireless broadband cost me \$6.25 per gigabyte, while in Lorne the cost is 10 cents per gigabyte on ADSL! Put simply, under the current arrangements, internet downloads are 62 times more expensive than in Lorne or Birregurra! Those using phones or tablets here to download pay even more per gigabyte. The wireless internet service, where it is available, is intermittent and slow. We need ADSL to take significant traffic off the wireless tower and allow better access for those who could not connect to ADSL.

At the meeting, Deans Marsh people outlined their needs loudly and clearly and Telstra seems to have listened: a WiFi community hub will hopefully soon be created, and for that offer of interim assistance we are truly grateful.

The clear message of the meeting was we need a permanent solution: we need ADSL. In response, Telstra's area manager Bill Mundy has advised that technical and economic analyses are now occurring, and we should have an answer by mid September. This is great progress. We have seen our neighbours in Lorne and Birregurra get ADSL: we in Deans Marsh have our collective fingers crossed. We will not give up our fight to get connected; we will not be satisfied with waiting for the NBN. We have expertise here in the Marsh so we can work with Telstra to make ADSL happen. We'll keep you posted.

Deb Campbell  
on behalf of the Deans Marsh community



Telstra Meets the Deans Marsh community August 20 2014.



ROGER & MANDY CALDER

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

It was inevitable the Calders would finish up in Lorne because although they lived in Bendigo, Mandy said her heart has been here for 40 years.

Roger's family first came for holidays when he was seven, arriving by train and bus to a cottage they rented on the Great Ocean Road. He has fond memories of fun with friends and watching the cuta boats sailing in Loutitt Bay. Later in the 60s, his family bought a tent and camped in the camping ground behind the supermarket thus establishing a holiday tradition which Mandy and Roger continued after they married and had a family. They have two sons (and a granddog named Lulu).

Mandy and Roger began their careers as primary and secondary teachers, later moving to special education to work with intellectually and socially challenged children. In 2010, they retired to Lorne and live in the house Roger's late father built in 1973. Both have a keen interest in environmental and social issues so Mandy wasted no time becoming part of the Lorne Community.

She works in the Op Shop, became a Friend of the Lions Art Show and helps out with The Performing Arts Festival. In free time Mandy works in her garden and Roger indulges in his love for jazz music. Mandy and Roger, being very much beach focused, walk on it every day.

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## LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 14 **Amy's Gran Fondo**, long course bike ride from Lorne, Skenes Creek, Deans Marsh & back to Lorne. Deans Marsh Road closed from Neade St to Deans Marsh from 9:30am- 3:30pm, Great Ocean Road closed from Bay St to Skenes Creek from 9:30am-3:30pm and Mountjoy Pde closed between Bay St and Grove Rd from 7am-9:30am
- 14 **LAAC 5th Winter Competition (final round)**, lines down after 6am, weigh in at the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club at 12:30 followed by BBQ lunch. Sponsored by Surfcoast Mowing & Gardening
- 17-18 **"Claws" (the legend of the Otway Panther), Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College biennial drama production**, 7pm at the Cumberland Auditorium, all welcome, tickets from the school 5289 1585 (\$20 adults, \$5 kids and \$50 family)
- 28 **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)

### OCTOBER

- 4 **Dance for Lock the Gate fundraiser**, 7pm at Deans Marsh Memorial Hall, Pennyroyal Valley Road, bar open, sausage sizzle, raffles, coffee and cake
- 24 **2014 Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour Dinner hosted by the Lions Club of Lorne**, 6:30pm at the Grand Pacific Hotel, 3 course meal \$75 per person, bookings from [margcartledge@hotmail.com](mailto:margcartledge@hotmail.com) or 0408 599 336
- 25 **"Celebrate 135", a party for all ages to celebrate the school's 135th anniversary**, from 6:30pm at the Lorne Life Saving Club, tickets from [www.trybooking.com/97858](http://www.trybooking.com/97858)

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

