

Part 8 of Deans Marsh Community Stories details the creation and building of our OMM community choir, a new Deans Marsh attitude to coal mining [and fracking], the lobbying of Telstra for access to ADSL technology, and the beginning of our efforts to develop a comprehensive community plan for our district.

The 2010s

74. 2010 Veronica Phillips created and installed **wooden animal playground fixtures**: the project was auspiced through the Deans Marsh Community Cottage and was supported by the Surf Coast Shire Council.

75. **OMM Rock Choir and Orchestra 2011** ongoing: key creators and organisers: Lisa Jarvis, Louise Brown and Jane Gorman, supported enthusiastically [albeit not always totally tunefully] by the wider Deans Marsh and district community.



76. 2010 and ongoing **Youth Group** camping trips and other activities key organiser Jo Zybel



77. 2011 **Community opposition to Coal: Mantle Mining meeting** July 27 ¹

Public Meeting

Deans Marsh Memorial Hall
7pm Wednesday 27th July 2011



To discuss a community response to Mantle Mining's application for a licence to explore for brown coal in the Deans Marsh area with a view to mining & exporting coal to India.

¹ Audio file at https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/local/ballarat/201107/r806069_7149245.mp3

Mining company walks away from Otways coal By Margaret Burin

It's a dilemma regional communities are facing around the nation; will the search for resources affect their local landscape and productive land? Not often do residents take on the mining industry and win.

Locals attended a public meeting to ask questions and voice concerns about Mantle Mining's application for a permit to explore 500 square kilometres around Deans Marsh in the Otways. Most thought it would be just the first step in a long battle ahead. But in a surprising turn of events, Mantle Mining chief executive Ian Kraemer told the crowd in the packed Deans Marsh Hall that he would withdraw the application if a show of hands revealed there wasn't support for it.

"I'm overwhelmed by the opposition and I have taken it on board and I will talk to my board and if a raise of hands shows me you're against it, I'll walk away," Mr Kraemer told residents. After perplexed glances darted around the hall, almost everybody in the room raised their arm. Community members began clapping and cheering. Mr. Kraemer says it was obvious there was no road forward in the area.

"One of the considerations we always take when we look at areas, we look at environmental, economic and social issues and obviously the social issue here has become obvious that there would be very little support for an exploration license."

Campaign organiser Seona Gunn says it was unexpected but branded it a win for the local environment, agriculture and tourism. "I didn't expect this, I thought we would have at least a really good fight on our hands. "In the future we can swing into action very quickly if any other mining company decides to look at the brown coal deposits in the area."

Fourth generation Deans Marsh beef producer Maryanne Stewart says it shows the strength of a community when it rallies together. "We live in the most beautiful part of the world and I could just not see the sense in going anywhere down the path of coal mining. "I think we knew we had to show that we had the numbers behind us."

Among politicians from all parties who attended the meeting to voice their opposition to the application, Greens Senator Richard Di Natale urged residents to send a clear message to their local members. Mr. Di Natale says the outcome was unprecedented.

"I must say it's the first time in my life as somebody who's campaigned long and hard on a number of issues that we've had a win in such a short space of time. "Hopefully this will be a major turning point in environmental politics in this country."

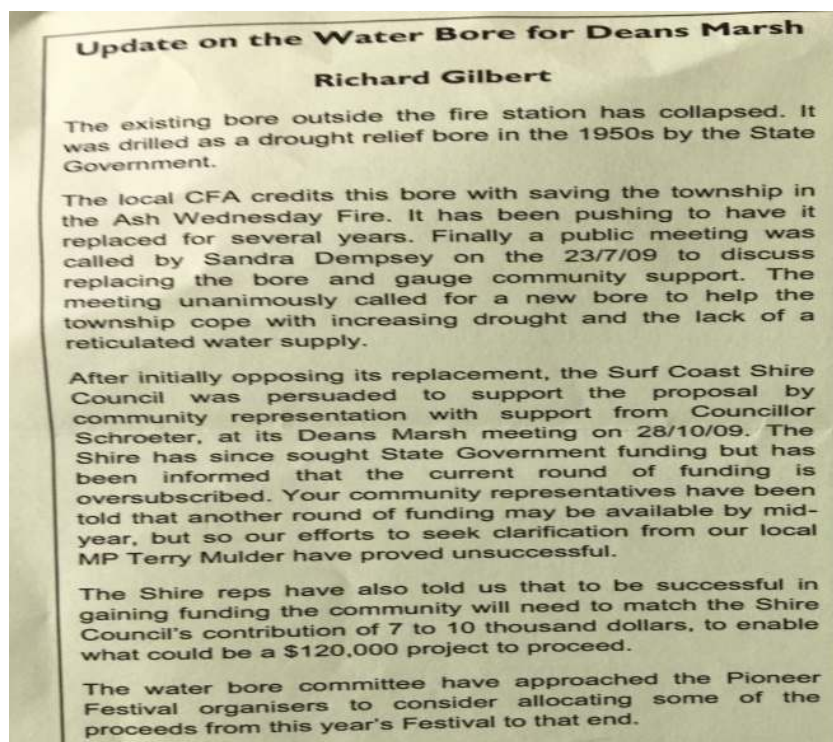
Some community members were dubious about the mining executive's promise and urged others to still write formal letters of objection regarding the permit. The meeting's most vocal resident, George Roufael says he doesn't believe the company will withdraw the application. "I think everyone in this meeting today should write, put a stamp on it like it was suggested and post it, and email it so it's heard and not forgotten."

Mr. Kraemer said the withdrawal is on the record.

"It's a rolled gold guarantee," he says. "I'm on record. It's done."



78. 2013 **Deans Marsh Community Bore** After several years of lobbying and fundraising²,



the new Deans Marsh Community Bore was officially opened by local MP Terry Mulder on March 15 2013.³

Permanent water supply delivered to Deans Marsh Provided by the office of Member for Polwarth Terry Mulder.

A new groundwater extraction bore in Deans Marsh, completed with \$105,000 in Victorian Coalition Government assistance, was officially opened today , Friday 15th March, by Member for Polwarth Terry Mulder.

Representing Deputy Premier Peter Ryan at today's event, Mr Mulder said the project would include construction of a new ground water extraction bore, as well as construction of a standpipe for emergency services and community access.

"This groundwater bore means Deans Marsh now has a permanent water supply for the first time in many years, granting it self-sufficiency when it comes to this precious natural resource," Mr. Mulder said. "It will provide reliable access to an alternative water supply for community facilities in Deans Marsh, including the recreation reserve, primary school, public hall and toilets.

"The standpipe will provide access for farmers and domestic drought relief when required.

"It will also support forest fuel reductions in the Otway Ranges and ensure Deans Marsh can meet the requirements for a Neighbourhood Safer Place during bushfire season."

Mr. Mulder said a 2006 investigation on the previous Deans Marsh water bore, constructed in 1956, revealed that it was failing, potentially leaving the community without access to a reliable water supply. "Deans Marsh does not have reticulated water supply, however access to an assured water supply has finally addressed this long standing local concern," Mr Mulder said. Mr Ryan said the Victorian Coalition Government support for the \$156,750 Deans Marsh Water Self Sufficiency project was provided through the Putting Locals First program – a component of the \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund, with Surf Coast Shire contributing \$30,000, Deans Marsh Hall

² *The Croaker* Vol 2 No 7 Richard Gilbert article

³ *The Croaker* Vol 5 no 2 May 2013 p.1 [marked as vol 4 no7]

and Recreation Reserve committees \$3,000, the Deans Marsh Rural Fire Brigade \$3,000. “Further and significant in-kind support was received from the Deans Marsh community, which gives an indication of the importance placed on this project,” Mr. Ryan said. “By providing local communities with ownership of projects, we can help them improve local infrastructure and facilities.”

79. 2013 **Carols in the Marsh every year until 2018** Jo Zybel and Louise Brown were the key organisers and musical contributors.



80. 2014 August: Deans Marsh Lobbies Telstra for ADSL⁴

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 a 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 skipped 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 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.

Ian Stewart

IAN STEWART
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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 lry 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 phones/ 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.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @Committee4Lorne

P.O Box 168, Lorne 3232. info@committeeforlorne.org.au www.cfl.org.au Phone: 0438 843 258



ROGER & MANDY CALDER

COMMUNITY PROFILE

It was inevitable the Calders would finish up in Lorne because although they lived in Bandigo, 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 in a cottage they rented on the Great Ocean Road. He has fond memories of fun with friends and watching the cuts boats sailing in Looslt 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 grandson 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.

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

14 **Amy's Gran Fondo**, long course bike ride from Lorne, Skenees 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 Skenees 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 Parthen)**, Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College biennial drama production, 7pm at the Cumberland Auditorium, all welcome, tickets from the school \$289-1565 (\$20 adults, \$5 kids and \$50 family)

28 **Deans Marsh Market**, 9am to 2pm at Deans Marsh Hall and Reserve. Enquiries - 52336 3388 or 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 mangacalder@hotmail.com or 0408 999 335

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.hybooking.com/97858

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

⁴ 2014 https://deansmarsh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/TELSTRA-1-surfcoasttimes_90_sep-11.

see *Surf Coast Times* August 2014.

⁵ pdf see *Surf Coast Times*

2014 *Deans Marsh Cricket Club going strong – sort of:*

'Swamp Rats...Cricket Legends...but not p'haps in a good way?
by our sporting correspondent

After hearing the news that the Swamp Rats' first eleven had been bowled out for 31 (including eight ducks) in the last round before xmas, many would asked, 'was that the lowest ever score?' by the local cricket club. Deans Marsh has twice previously been bowled out for less than 31. Forty years ago, all out 21 versus Apollo Bay (5 ducks) and way back in 1958 all out 21 versus Birregurra (5 ducks), so there we have it: yes indeed the Swamp Rats HAVE outdone themselves in one way at least in 2014 with 8 ducks. Here's to 2015.....'⁶

81. 2014 Deans Marsh Arts annual show as part of SCSC Arts Trail and arts market started.



⁶ *The Croaker* Vol. 8 No 1 page 2.

82. 2014-5 Lock the Gate Community Survey in 2014 and resulting Declaration in 2015.



THE

croaker

Volume 7 No. 3 June 2014

Correspondence to: the Editors via email: thecroakernewsletter@gmail.com
Editors Deb Campbell & Jane Gorman

DECLARATION: DEANS MARSH AND BAMBRA ARE GAS FIELD FREE PROTECTED BY THE WILL OF THE COMMUNITY

Overwhelmingly, through consultation and engagement, the Deans Marsh and Bambra communities have indicated that we want to remain Coal Seam Gas Free and all unconventional gasfield free.

In this 3235 Deans Marsh postcode we have fertile soils, steady rains and pure water.

We also have residents and ratepayers dedicated to protecting these valuable assets, not only for this community, but for those in the future who will continue to farm the land and respect the environment that sustains us all.

We *want the water in our aquifers, wetlands, rivers and water catchments to remain pure and drinkable for plants, animals and people.*

We want to continue to produce the best beef, lamb, oil, wine and dairy products from uncontaminated Orway soils.

Our clean air and pastoral landscapes continue to attract urban and city dwellers keen to draw in the restorative powers of our stunning forests, fields and oceans.

We stand together as a community against gasfield industrialization.

Our fight is not against progress, but against those who do not see and do not value what we do, and the land in our care.

The currency of our environmental assets is too valuable to risk for a process that 264 households and 490 people surveyed throughout our Deans Marsh and Bambra area (over 95.5%) do not want.

We will not grieve in the future for a present we can protect now.

This is the text of the Declaration presented to Mayor Rose Hodge and other Surf Coast Shire councillors at the Deans Marsh Memorial Oval on April 12. The Declaration itself was a beautiful document created by our own Julia Ditterich, and the community survey work and our whole campaign has been led by Seona Gunn and Liz Bashford. Liz even appeared on the ABC news looking beautifully rural. Have a look if you missed her: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-04-30/government-calls-for-input-on-onshore-gas/5422056>. A community meeting to discuss the issues was held in Winchelsea on May 28 and of course **The Croaker** was there (see page 4). Further community consultation has been organized by the State Government. It will be held on June 26 at the Colac Uniting Church Hall, between 2—8pm. The Minister for Mining and Energy, Russell Northe, will attend.

One further thing we could do in the Marsh to build on the survey results and our Declaration is to erect signs announcing our community decision to all who pass this way by putting larger versions of our LOCK THE GATE signs at the entrances to town on the Birregurra, Winchelsea and Lorne roads. What do people think of this idea? Please let Liz know your views by emailing her or send your thoughts on this to thecroakernewsletter@gmail.com. In the run up to the State election in November it might be good to tell all who pass through town where we stand, but this is an issue for everyone. Let us know please.

83. 2015 **Community Auction social function** to aid a house fire-affected local family.

84. **Willow Sculptures 2015**. Created by Veronica Phillips leading a community workshop, auspiced by the Community Cottage and supported by SCSC.



⁷ All photos of willow sculptures taken by Veronica Phillips with permissions

85. 2016 and ongoing **Community SMS LIST** community emergency contacts list for after fire or other emergency.⁸

UPDATE - SMS MASTER LIST: Deans Marsh, Bambra, Pennyroyal communities

First a very big thank you from Victor of the Community Cottage and me to all those volunteers who helped us collect names and addresses from our communities. Your help in door knocking and letter boxing was much appreciated.

Thanks too to all of you who have sent in your details on the permission slips, and to Dale, Judy and Dean and all at the Store for acting as a collection post for us.

Victor - who with partner Chris, has done much of the work constructing the list and learning about the technical side of things - has begun testing the mechanism and we hope that there will be a general test of all on the list in the next few weeks.

Just a reminder that **YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RESPOND** to the SMSs you receive. The SMSs will be for information only and will contain details of how to contact those issuing the messages directly.

Again many thanks to everyone, and for those of you who have not yet signed up, please forward your details via the form to me kaosmgt@bigpond.com or care of The Store Deans Marsh.

Deb Campbell

Members of the Hall and Cottage Committees, acting after a community development presentation organised by the Surf Coast Shire Council, created and now maintain a voluntary list of SMS numbers of as many community members as possible – both permanent and occasional residents – in order to have a way of communicating with our community effectively in the period **AFTER** a fire in the district, when many will likely be located elsewhere and be without other forms of communication. Such a mechanism was noted in the SCSC presentation as very helpful after Black Saturday fires in central Victoria, and so Deans Marsh has tried to build on that approach.

86. 2016 **Weekly Fitness walks at the oval ongoing**



⁸ Excerpt from *The Croaker newsletter* vol.10 no.1 February 2017

Real connection comes to Deans Marsh

Was it community power or the inherent generosity of Telstra or plain old good luck? Or just a fortuitous combination of all three?

Whatever the reason, the Deans Marsh Bamba community are very happy indeed to report that our pleas were heard: ADSL has arrived!

As the *Surf Coast Times* of September 4 2014 reported, the well attended, not to say passionate, community meeting held at Deans Marsh in August 2014 allowed our combined community members to put their case for improved communications to the team from Telstra Countrywide Geelong and Ballarat. We promised to keep you posted, and now we are very pleased to say: we are connected.

Over the years, we had watched while Lorne and Birregurra achieved success and decided to have a go ourselves. The clear message of the August 2014 meeting was we needed a solution to our poor communications situation: we needed ADSL. In response, Telstra Countrywide's area managers, Bill Mundy and Duane Dalton came through for us, and by mid September we had a YES. With the help of Bill and Duane and their teams, we have succeeded.

ADSL arrived in Deans Marsh just before Christmas 2014 and was operational across by early 2015. Not content with a solution that did not extend to as many of our community members as possible – including many school kids and university students who live in Bamba, we kept pushing.

In the meantime, Telstra provided us with a free Community Hub which operates out of the Deans Marsh Community Cottage, so that students, parents, anyone can either use the Cottage computers or bring their own device to log on, agree the terms and conditions, and start communicating.

And then in 2015, Telstra agreed to refit and upgrade the tiny Bamba exchange. The first Bamba residents signed up at a community meeting at Bamba Hall on February 10, 2016. Around 40 families came to sign up, and some are downloading happily already.

While this is definitely a good news story for many of us, not everyone was able to be part of the Deans Marsh Bamba ADSL rollout.

Pennyroyal – once a separate township but now very much a part of our community – has never had a telephone exchange and the distances from the Deans Marsh exchange mean ADSL is not possible for those residents and businesses... which is a pity ... and we are still exploring what options there might be

There are also existing technology and infrastructure factors which mean that not all of us in Deans Marsh and Bamba can access the technology, even if it is available at our local exchanges, and distance does not preclude them.

First, of course a landline is a requirement and



Deans Marsh Community Cottage coordinator Ruth Hamilton helps advertise our new Community Hub: thanks Telstra!

some locals have had to have those installed or reconnected as part of the process. More than that though, the old, not to say ancient, copper wire network, and the ways it was installed in many rural areas all those years ago, mean that many of us have home lines which are operated on what are called pair gains.

These are rather like the old 'party lines' that used to operate when every country town had a manned – or more usually womaned! – telephone exchange, and mean that the lines are not of sufficient quality to be suitable for transmission of ADSL.

So, although it is not like the city where everyone gets access suburb by suburb, many of us are far better off technology-wise than we were. We have Telstra to thank for that and we certainly do.

DEB CAMPBELL
ON BEHALF OF THE DEANS MARSH BAMBRA
AND PENNYROYAL COMMUNITY



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10

⁹2016 March 3 <https://deansmarsh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/TELSTRA-TWO-Committee-for-Lorne-page-Surf-Coast-Times-3-March-2016.pdf>

¹⁰ *Surf Coast Times* article by James Taylor March 3 2016; [see 78 above]

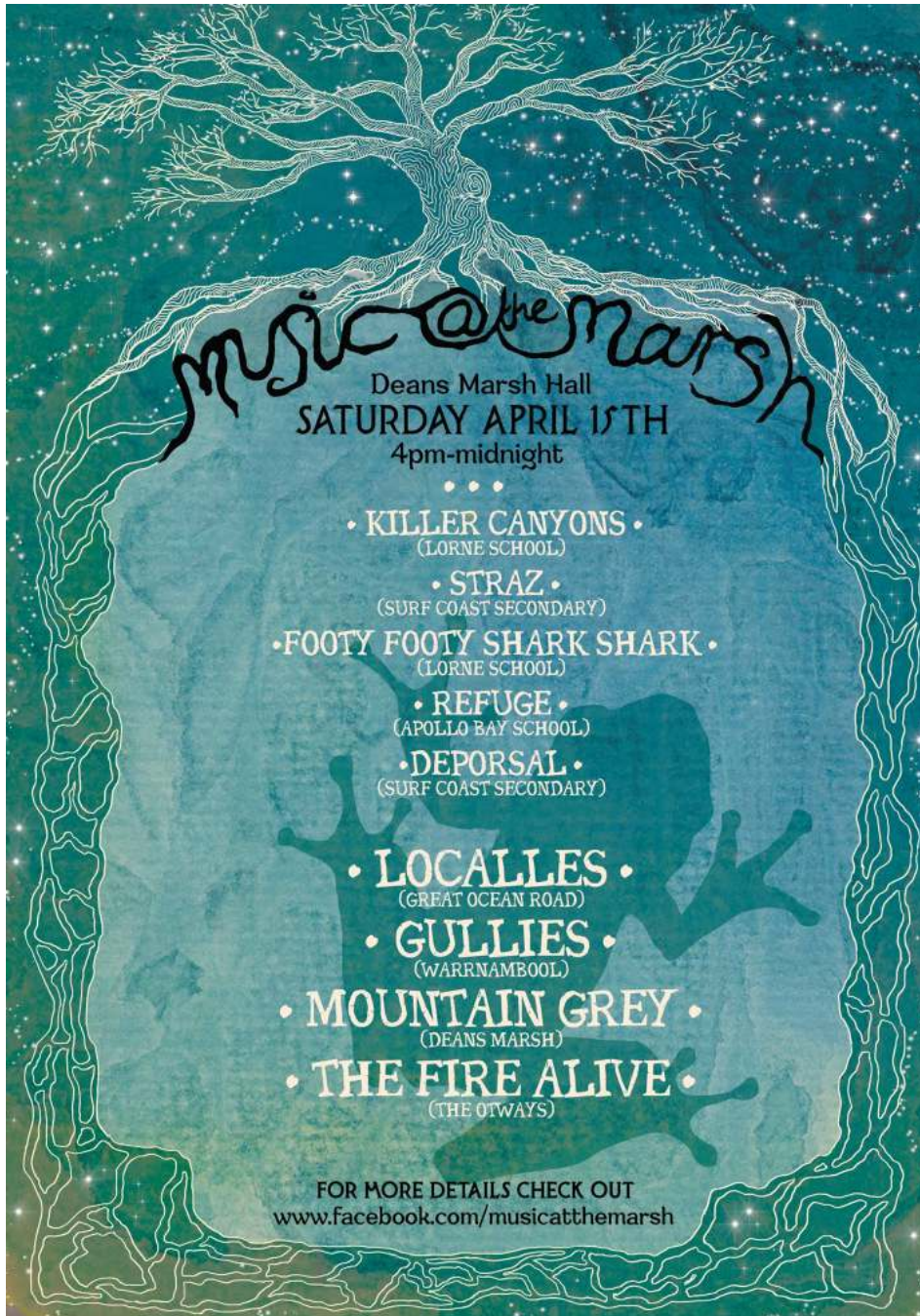
87. 2016 November **Community-organised, funded and run Footy Shed paving project.**¹¹



2017 Music @ the Marsh second version – the new generation steps up to organise:

¹¹ *Surf Coast Times*

https://deansmarsh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FOOTY-SHED-SC23519_161208.pdf



88. 2017 Lorne Medical Practice doctor from Lorne in Footy shed:
organised by the Deans Marsh Hall Committee.



89. 2018 Comedy Night and Auction fundraiser for local family



12

¹² all photos by Renee Wigley Deans Marsh Arts

Music @ the Marsh



90. July 2019 - December 2019 **Community Planning: MaDCap**



13

¹³ <https://deansmarsh.org.au/activities-3/#community-development>

The Deans Marsh community planning process which became MaDCAP was initiated by us in response to the **SCSC Rural Hinterland Strategy**. That document was released for public comment in 2018 /2019 but the aims and objectives of that Strategy did not resonate with our community resulting in calls for us to develop our own community plan.

The Deans Marsh and District Action Plan was formulated by members of the Deans Marsh and District Community through the MADCAP campaign, which was coordinated by DMCC Committee Members and staff. The project was aided by and the plan written with the assistance of Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S.

Thank you to the many Deans Marsh and District Residents who participated by sharing their ideas in order to develop this Deans Marsh and District Community Plan.

The creation of the Deans Marsh and District Community Plan was initiated by the DMCC with financial support from Regional Development Victoria through the Stronger Regional Communities Program together with funding and staff support from the Surfcoast Shire Council.

<https://deansmarsh.org.au/activities-3-2/>

Our Guiding Values



We Are A
Caring And
Connected
Community
Who
Celebrate
And Share
Our Unique
Community
Spirit



We Are
Responsible
Custodians
Who Respect
And Protect
Our Natural
Environment



We Act To
Build The
Resilience
And
Adaptability
Of Our
Community,
Our Local
Economy And
Our
Environment



We Have A
Collaborative,
Creative,
Resourceful
And Proactive
Culture



We Are
Committed
To Retaining
Our Rural
Landscapes
And Rural
Village
Lifestyle



An information session for MADCAP Volunteers will be held on Wednesday the 6th of November at 6pm at the Deans Marsh Community Cottage

If you would like to volunteer with MADCAP through assisting to distribute and collect postcards and surveys in your road or local group, hosting a conversation, sharing ideas in a focus group or being involved in research for the project please contact The Cottage.

MADCAP Elements - beginning Nov 11th

'Community planning is developing a shared vision of the future, then determining the best way to make this vision occur. A process where the people (i.e. the community) arrive at group vision, priorities and actions to achieve positive change that will enhance the physical, social and economic wellbeing of the community.'

'It is a dynamic, interactive and participatory process intended to make the quality of life better for all members of the community' -Peter Kenyon

The My Big Idea Postcard

We want to hear your Big Ideas for Deans Marsh and District: What Deans Marsh and District needs to look like, be like and feel like in the future... and the best actions to make it a reality.

Your Big Ideas are about creating an exciting vision of your community's future.

Community Asset Mapping

Community Asset Mapping is a process to identify, connect and mobilise capacities, resources and strengths (individual and organisational) in a community.

A series of surveys will be sent to all parts of the community; residents, businesses, associations and other bodies. The critical asset that is discovered is what people care about and are willing to act upon, and who else cares about it.

MADCAP Conversations

The most useful community building tool - conversation and its role in this process is to understand not 'what's the matter?' but 'what matters to people?'

Become a MADCAP Mad Hatter and host a Mad Hatters Tea Party with a group of 6-10 people.

Tea party conversation prompts will be provided.

To go in the draw to win a hamper of local produce, everyone wear a hat to the Tea Party and share a photo to the Deans Marsh Cottage Facebook page/Instagram or send us a photo.

This is a great chance to fill in a postcard, complete the surveys and have a chat.

Gatherings can be held at The Store, in your home or in the top paddock.
A \$50 contribution to catering is available.

Please contact the Cottage by the 15th of November to register your interest.

If you are not into hats you are still encouraged to talk with friends, neighbours and introduce yourself to people you have never met and share your thoughts and aspirations with others

A great opportunity to learn what type of community we ALL want, collectively. The broader the community engagement, the better the result. Tony H

Although **MaDCap** started and many meetings were held and initiatives begun with great community enthusiasm in 2019, the Global Covid pandemic, which in January 2020, seriously affected the community's ability to meet, plan and conduct activities in all areas for the next two years. Given this significant impediment, it is fair to say that the **MaDCAP** process could not proceed in 2019 as fast as we all would have hoped.¹⁵

14. all graphics from MaDCAP website <https://deansmarsh.org.au/activities-3/#community-development>

¹⁵ Nevertheless identified priorities and goals are being pursued in 2022 via CAN the Community Action Network, where Deans Marsh and district community members continue the work of **MaDCAP**. See Part 9 Deans Marsh Community Stories The 2020s