



Reflecting on an eventful time for Lorne and surrounds

From world-class cycling to an internationally renowned outdoor art exhibition, Lorne's status as a premier events destination continues to grow.

Council is proud to support the 2025 Gran Fondo World Championships in Lorne (\$50,000) and the next two editions of Lorne Sculpture Biennale in 2025 and 2027 (\$30,000 for each).

Our strategic investment in cycling infrastructure, experiences and events over the past decade has paid dividends. Road cycling events in our shire consistently attract more participants than any other region in Victoria, providing the local economy with a welcome boost. As does the Biennale, a significant cultural tourism event.

There's a local group making waves in the Surf Coast creative scene. Lorne Community Connect (LCC) has transformed a former senior citizens centre into an arts hub. Council grants have been pivotal in launching LCC's Artist in Residence program and more recently, mobile hanging units to display various pieces.

We've assisted the community to deliver upgrades to other community connection spaces including Lorne Historical Society façade (\$76,688) and Stribling Reserve, through safety improvements and minor equipment. (\$30,000). Meanwhile the Erskine River and Moggs Creek footbridges - popular walking routes - were replaced (\$632,361).

With Stribling Reserve at the heart of community and school activities, we've prioritised works to have the stadium up-and-running again as quickly as possible after mould was found under the floorboards.

Nearby, we're making the Lorne P-12 College drop-off and pick-up area safer (\$500,000) and look forward to a design for an improved Lorne Men's Shed car park (\$26,000). We've also rolled out Operation Lockatoo (\$218,900) to prevent cockatoos foraging in bins and causing litter to spill into the local environment.

Looking ahead, a future budget features the Deans Marsh Community Hub Facility Development Plan (approved in March 2023), which will seek to deliver a new facility that maintains the unique characteristics and local significance of the existing site, with environmentally sustainable design. We aim to attract government funding to support our future \$2.28m allocation.

Victorian Government funding made a Lorne concert possible in September 2023. Our Youth team combined with four Lorne P-12 students to put on the Re-Grouse the Dolls House gig, which welcomed 150 people and raised money for the school's music space.