

Country and Waters

Lorne Sculpture Biennale transforms town

Robert Hague, 'What Remains'
Lorne Sculpture Biennale 2022. Photo: Shane Thomson, Urchin Creative.

A world-class outdoor exhibition has added another dimension to Lorne, according to Lorne Sculpture Biennale President Andrew Stobart.

The popular Biennale returns in March, commissioning established and emerging artists to present sculpture and spatial installations at 16 sites along the foreshore.

“Obviously Lorne is a holiday destination and people come here to enjoy the recreation and hospitality assets,” Andrew said. “Together with Qdos Arts, the Biennale has put us on the map as a cultural destination as well, presenting Lorne – and the Surf Coast – in another dimension. It attracts an audience who come to Lorne for another reason.”

Titled STRATA and curated by Simon Lawrie, Biennale 2025’s artistic vision derives from the iconic geology of Gadubanud Country.

“In 2022 we created the theme ‘Spirit Of Place’ and asked artists to prepare original

works that talked to that theme,” Andrew said. “This year’s ‘STRATA’ theme continues to build on the ecological and cultural history of Lorne and the foreshore.”

Council’s Surf Coast Events is proud to sponsor Lorne Sculpture Biennale, which is free for the public to enjoy.

“It attracts around 20,000 visitors, and our surveys have told us that 60% come to Lorne specifically for the Biennale,” Andrew said.

“This year we’ve extended to five weekends. We encourage local people to come along and take it all in.”

The event runs from 1 to 30 March. For the full program – including Sculpture Plus which offers workshops, artist talks and performances – visit lornesculpture.com.

Community survey closing soon

What do you think Council should focus on for the next four years?

We’re keen to hear your views to help us develop our new Council Plan, which will set the strategic direction for 2025-2029.

Have your say by taking Council’s Our Focus Our Future survey at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/ourfocusourfuture.

Get in quick, the survey closes 3 February 2025. This is your chance to help shape where you live.

A panel of 45 community members – randomly selected, based on the demographic profile of the shire – will also be established to give advice to Council on the Council Plan.



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OUR FOCUS OUR FUTURE

Surf Coast Shire councillors take office

The four-year term is underway for the new Surf Coast Shire Council, which features a mix of new and returning councillors.



Back L-R: Crs Tony Phelps, Joel Grist, Rebecca Bourke, Leon Walker and Adrian Schonfelder.
Front L-R: Crs Liz Pattison, Paul Barker, Mayor Mike Bodsworth and Deputy Mayor Libby Stapleton.

Congratulations to the councillors elected to represent the community: Mayor Mike Bodsworth, Deputy Mayor Libby Stapleton and Leon Walker (Otway Range Ward), Paul Barker, Rebecca Bourke and Liz Pattison (Torquay Ward), and Joel Grist, Tony Phelps and Adrian Schonfelder (Winchelsea Ward).

Mayor Bodsworth said it was a huge honour to be elected to the role.

“We’ve got an exciting new Council with important work to do. New councillors bring new perspectives and I think a fresh Council is a great thing. We have a healthy diversity of views,” he said.

“One of my first priorities is to work together to build a strong Council culture and one of our first pieces of work will be the Council Plan, which will serve as an essential roadmap.

“We’ve got some other exciting projects coming up including Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre and the Winchelsea Pool and adventure play space redevelopment.”

Roger a regular at Anglesea men’s shed

Roger Snow says it took “a couple of years of nagging” from his mate before he finally stepped into Anglesea and District Men’s Shed. A decade on, he wishes he listened to him sooner.

The 95-year-old attends the shed a few times a week.

“I just love the people here,” he said. “I love talking to them, having jokes with them, sharing stories with them. And there’s always something to do.”

From whirring tools to clinking cuppas, the shed is a hub of activity on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Recent projects include a bike rack for Aireys Inlet Primary School, wooden animal cut-outs for kids to paint at Anglesea Art House, community seating, and a BBQ serving area for neighbour Anglesea Bowls Club.

The shed has about 55 members, with the youngest being secretary Andrew Newman.

“I moved back to Australia after living in Shanghai,” Andrew said. “I was looking for a way to embrace the local community. I was always interested in woodwork and using my hands, so I ended up here and met all these great blokes.”



L-R: Men’s shed secretary Andrew Newman, long-time member Roger Snow and coordinator Clive Lillywhite.

Anglesea and District Men’s Shed will continue to make a difference in the community this year, helped by a Council grant to go towards a wood lathe.

We support all men’s sheds in the Surf Coast Shire by hosting quarterly Heads of Sheds meetings where representatives can connect.

Find details about your local men’s shed at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/sheds.

STOP THE PRESS: we’re moving online

Our *Country and Waters* newsletter is going online, so we can deliver more frequent and timely news directly to your inbox. Moving to electronic will also reduce paper waste and significantly cut printing costs.

The quarterly newsletter will become a shorter monthly eNews, with the first edition coming out late February. Plus you can receive important Council news as it breaks.

Ratepayers who currently receive their rates notices electronically will be automatically signed up to the eNews.

If you receive a hard copy of your rates and you would like to subscribe to our eNews, you can find details at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/countryandwaters.

If you prefer a hard copy, you can collect one from local community houses at the end of each month. Available at Anglesea, Lorne, Torquay and Winchelsea Community Houses, and Deans Marsh Community Cottage.

Construction of Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre about to start

Construction of our newly-named Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre will start in February.



L-R: Deputy Mayor Libby Stapleton, Member for Corangamite Libby Coker, Community Reference Group member Kate Eddiehausen, Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney, Mayor Mike Bodsworth and Community Reference Group member Colin Fowler, with future centre users.

Contractor Kane Constructions has been carrying out preliminary work including building of a new car park on the north Torquay site since November.

Now the \$46.3m centre is about to take shape, scheduled for completion late in 2026.

The centre will bring health, wellbeing and water safety benefits for people of all ages and abilities for generations to come.

The new name for the centre was announced at a sod-turning ceremony in December, attended by Federal Member for Corangamite Libby Coker and Victorian Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney.

Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles announced and unveiled the centre's new name and logo.

Wurdi Baierr is Wadawurrung Language for 'big gathering place'. The new centre will adjoin and share its entry point with the existing Wurdi Baierr Stadium.

Stage one works on the centre will include:

- 25-metre indoor pool for lap/squad swimming
- warm water indoor pool for exercise, hydrotherapy and leisure
- gym and program spaces
- allied health suites
- café and supporting amenities.

Stage two works in planning include:

- a dedicated indoor learn to swim pool
- indoor splash park
- spa, sauna and steam room
- additional change rooms.

The cost for stage one works is \$46.34m, with Council grateful to receive \$20m from the Australian Government and \$16.68 million from the Victorian Government.

Stage two works will be fully funded by the Victorian Government.

Find more information via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/aquatic.

Winchelsea Pool nearing completion

Work on Winchelsea's \$8.2 million new pool is nearing completion, with opening celebrations set for February.

Replacement of the much-loved community asset is one of four significant projects enhancing the town's Barwon Terrace riverside precinct as a place for healthy activity and family fun.

The adjoining Barwon River Loop Walk, with new bridge and viewing platforms, is also expected to be completed early in 2025, complementing the soon-to-be-completed Adventure Play Space and newly-landscaped gathering space shelter.

The pool is sure to be a hit for community members and visitors, with addition of a splash park to new 25-metre and leisure pools and amenities building.

Opening celebrations will include free-entry days with giveaways, music, games and tours.

Visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/winchpool for the latest details.

Installation of the bridge and viewing platforms completing the Loop Walk is also scheduled for February.



The loop north of the Princes Highway will link with an existing path to the south, creating a two-kilometre path connecting Winchelsea's four quadrants and better connecting the community with the river environment.

The bridge will replace an existing culvert crossing, and the platforms will acknowledge Eastern Maar Country on the western bank and Wadawurrung Country on the eastern bank.

The platforms will feature artwork designed by Eastern Maar Guldijan artist Ebony Hickey and Wadawurrung artist Billy-Jay O'Toole.

Stay in touch with Winchelsea project developments via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/winchprojects.



Heart of the community

Passionate disability advocate **Tim Harte** is voluntary chair of Council's All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC), at the heart of our community. He shared these insights for International Day of People with Disability.



Tell us a bit about yourself

I have lived at Gnarwarre in Winchelsea Ward for almost 20 years and divide my time between working as a materials chemist, pursuing a PhD focusing on structural electrolytes, and advocacy efforts in the disability community.

I am a director of the Australia Federation of Disability Organisations executive committee and the Pacific regional representative for the UN-affiliated Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities, and former president of Physical Disability Australia.

What is your message for our community?

I am inspired by the resilience and strength of individuals in the disability community.

Their stories motivate me to fight for inclusive development and equitable access for everyone.

I want to celebrate the diversity and contributions of the disability community.

I am proud to be part of a network that advocates for inclusion but recognise that barriers still exist. While there are challenges such as accessible infrastructure, our community is welcoming and eager to learn how to be more inclusive.

To increase inclusion, I encourage everyone to actively listen to the experiences of people with disabilities and advocate for changes promoting accessibility.

Together we can create a more inclusive environment where all individuals are valued and empowered to participate fully in society.

The AAAC advises Council on how to improve access and inclusion for people with disability in the Surf Coast Shire community. Find out more via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/access.

Update to what's accepted in kerbside bins

Changes have been made to what is accepted in your kerbside recycling and FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) bins.

Now accepted in your recycling yellow lid bin is cardboard cartons and Tetrapaks from:

- long life and alternative milks, e.g. soy milk, almond milk, oat milk, etc.
- liquid cooking stock e.g. chicken, beef etc.
- fruit juices
- ice cream and custards.



Please remove any plastic lids and put them in your landfill bin. Ensure all containers are empty.

A new processor has opened in Australia that can separate cardboard from the plastic and foil so they can be recycled separately.

Items now not accepted in your FOGO green lid bin:

- pet poo, even if it's in a 100% compostable bag
- kitty litter, even if it's made from recycled paper or wood.

These items need to be placed in your landfill red lid bin. They are a biohazard to the staff working at the facilities processing this waste.

Check what can and can't be accepted in each of your bins by checking SCRRApp, Surf Coast Shire's rubbish and recycling app. The A-Z guide lists common household items and where to dispose of them.

Find out more at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/scrrapp.

IN BRIEF

Add your event to Surf Coast Events calendar

Surf Coast Events is inviting more venues to add their own event listings to the popular surfcoastevents.com.au website.

The online events calendar welcomes an average 5,000 visitors per month, showcasing the variety of events on the Surf Coast.

Bird Rock venue manager Olly Cook said the Jan Juc establishment was excited to list its gigs on Surf Coast Events.

"It will be invaluable for a small local live music venue like us," he said. "It will help us reach a broader local and tourist audience while keeping promotional costs low, allowing us to invest more in creating memorable experiences."

From art galleries to commercial venues, if you would like to promote events via Surf Coast Events, visit surfcoastevents.com.au.

Keep kids safe around pools

Help keep kids safe around residential pools and spas across our shire.

If you have a residential spa or pool, or are thinking about getting one, there are some things to know.

All pools and spas more than 30cm deep – including relocatable and inflatable – that are in place for more than 72 hours must be registered with Council and have protective barriers and gates that meet safety requirements.

To help prevent drownings, Victorian Government legislation requires all owners to register their pool or spa with Council, to have the safety barriers inspected by a registered pool inspector every four years, and to lodge the compliance certificate with Council.

Help keep our kids safe. Find more information via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/poolsspas or call **5261 0600**.

SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL

1 Merrijig Drive (PO Box 350) Torquay 3228
Phone: **5261 0600**
surfcoast.vic.gov.au/request

If you require a printed copy of online information referred to in any story, please call **5261 0600**

Surf Coast Shire Council Acknowledges the Wadawurrung People, and Gulidjan and Gadubanud Peoples of the Eastern Maar, their Elders and leaders past, present and emerging as the Traditional Owners of the skies, land, waters and sea country across our municipality.

We also extend our respect to all First Nations people who are part of the community.



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