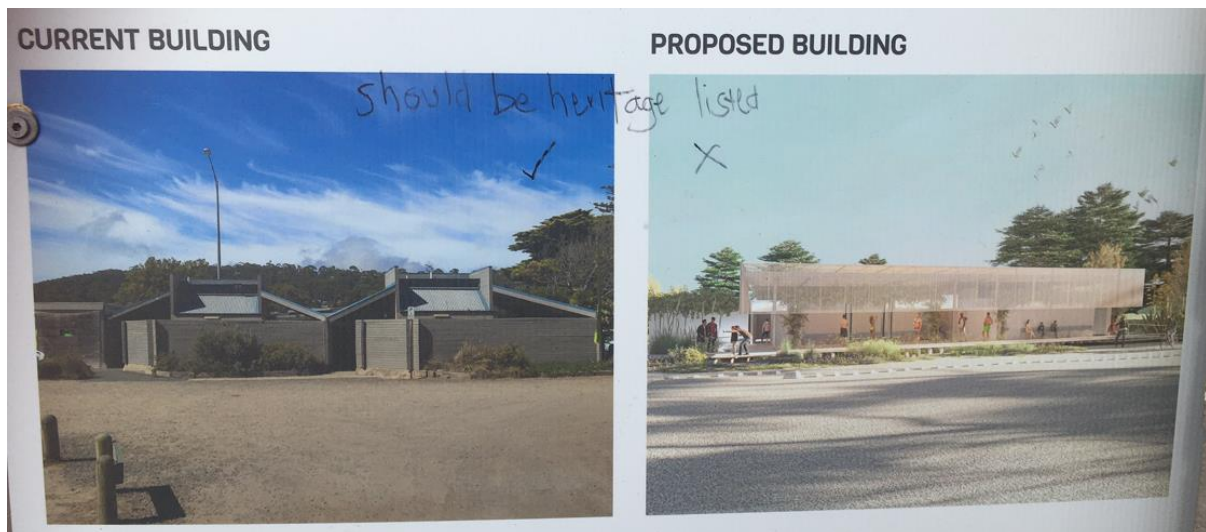


Dear GORCAPA,

Grove Road Lorne, Toilet Block

Thanks for the opportunity to give some overall feedback about the Grove Rd Toilet Block project and the process so far.

1. People wanted a lot more detail in the plans. They wanted to know what it looked like from different sides. They wanted to know fit relative to what is already there (footprint and impact on traffic flows). They wanted to know what it looked like from Mountjoy Pde. They wanted to see the architect's site analysis and the brief given to the architect. In short, the briefing was too minimal. Doubtless some people would have been overwhelmed by too much material. So perhaps, to satisfy both groups, there could be a "MORE" button for the details. I know some of this (like the footprint part) was covered in the consultation meeting. It was included in the PDF we sent out of your presentation. But I guess text saying "the footprint is/is not changing" would make it super clear.
2. The survey itself was poorly designed, unfortunately. It was not clear where to write free form answers on what people liked and didn't like about the design. Abbreviations were not explained. Jargon was not explained (eg, "design features"). The wording was poor (e.g., meaning of "future" expectations, as opposed to simply expectations). It wasn't possible to save and keep a copy of one's own survey.
3. Overall, people liked the existing building in terms of look and beach-style feel, and they would rather that this same look and feel (eg., roof slope and open-air ventilation) be kept and renovated for current requirements, than replaced with an oblong. Graffiti I discovered on the sign adjacent the men's block sums this up:



4. We were delighted to learn that Friends of Lorne has wider networks than we think. The original architect, Hal Murphy, now based in California, designed the building in 1970. He was forwarded our email. He is happy to supply information and advice at no cost. Local (retired) architect Ian Burch, (a fan of the existing building) is happy to liaise for Friends of Lorne/the community and to advise in any rethink/next steps (in a voluntary capacity). Ian's email address is ianburcharchitects@bigpond.com.

The main message is that the community appreciates that the facility needs to be upgraded, but we like the way the existing building encapsulates coastal character. The Surf Coastal Shire Planning Scheme talks about “lightweight coastal image”. The existing side-by-side staggered design, the sloped roofs, and open-air light shafts all seem to speak to this.

5. Finally, at meeting of the Great Ocean Road Communities Network last week, Jodie Sizer and her team shared the first draft of GORCAPA’s Strategic Themes. She is going to tidy up and forward her slides, so I may be misquoting her. But one of the themes was about identifying and tapping local and indigenous knowledge. First Nations knowledge was the centrepiece of this. But, in addition, GORCAPA recognises that coastal communities are brimming with expertise and willingness to help of all sorts – architects, engineers, environmental scientists etc. The point we wish to make here is not just about whose knowledge you tap, but *when* you do it. Rather than have people here comment on GORCAPA plans and project designs *after* you have drafted them, a lot of time and money could possibly be saved by talking to communities first. In this case there could have been community input to the design brief. Additional ideas and knowledge may have helped your architect from the outset.

We are conscious that coming in, as we have now, as critics after the fact, is not a great way to thank people who have put in lot of work so far. We recognise that. But we hope that there is a strong footing now for making something that GORCAPA and the community are satisfied with.

Thanks for allowing us to sum up community feeling for you. And thanks again for being open to input.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Hawe
Friends of Lorne
www.friendsoflorne.org.au

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FRIENDS OF LORNE INC
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