

# Sunshine Advocate

## Where did John go?

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### The question that torments a schoolboy's family ...

**MR. KEN Landos is a tough man, but he was on the verge of tears this week when he said "John, please come home. Please. There will be no trouble."**

John Landos, 13, of Cresford St., North Sunshine, has not been seen by his family since January 8.

Mr. Landos fears that his son may have been abducted.

Mr. Landos told The Advocate this week: "We have not given up hope.

"Perhaps he is in bad company and scared to come home. I don't know."

Mr. Landos does not know of anything more he can do to find his son.

"John had no change of clothes and no money - he must approach someone for help, he must eat."

"Someone must have seen him," he said.

The boy's description has been broadcast over many Victorian television and radio stations and his photograph has been published in various newspapers.

**NO CLUES**

Police have told Mr. Landos there is nothing more they can do. They have no clues to work on.

On January 8, John went to the beach at Lorne. When he returned he was upset to find that his father had gone rabbiting without him.

There was an argument - and John has not been seen since.

It was thought that the boy tried to hitch-hike to Great Marsh, about 20 miles from Lorne, to find his father.

Mr. Landos said: "But John was frightened of the dark - he would not have gone into the bush by himself."

Mr. Landos has checked with police almost daily.

Although there have been some reported sightings, police have nothing definite to work on.

**The Landos family live in Cresford St., North Sunshine.**

Mr. Landos and family friends have travelled thousands of miles throughout Victoria in search of the boy.

Last weekend, a nephew, Mr. Andrew Iero, went to Adelaide to look for John.

Mr. Landos said his son was not an adventurous boy; he was happy at home and there were no serious arguments.

Mr. Landos said: "Before we went to Lorne for our holidays, John was upset because he had to leave his dog behind.

"We couldn't take the dog to the caravan park and John was worried that the dog would forget about him while he was away.



"In his spare time he would generally stay at home with his pets - his dog, a cat, some mice and a few fish.

"When last seen, John was wearing a red, short-sleeved shirt, brown corduroy trousers with yellow patch pockets, and white runners with blue stripes. He has light brown hair and a fair complexion.

# WHERE DID JOHN GO?

By **TONY JENNER**

• THIS picture of John Landos, 13, is the most recent one taken before his disappearance on January 18. It is part of a school group photograph and shows John in his school uniform.



### ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN POLLING DAY

**AN extra-ordinary election will NOT be held on March 17 to fill the vacancy in Sunshine Council created by the resignation of Mr. Ross Tedge.**

At the last meeting of Sunshine Council, a letter of resignation from Mr. Tedge was read out by the Mayor, Cr. Kevin Wheelahan.

After reading out the letter, Cr. Wheelahan set a date for an extra-ordinary election - March 17.

Under the Local Government Act, an extraordinary election has to be held between the 21st day and the second day after the occurrence of the vacancy.

missed four ordinary consecutive meetings of council.

Under the Act, a councillor is disqualified if this happens.

Mr. Howard Brown, of St. Albans, who has announced he will be a candidate at the election, said the whole situation was "beyond a joke."

Mr. Brown said: "The town clerk and his staff have been trying for months to remove two councillors - now that one has resigned we have the ridiculous situation of the Town Clerk's department blocking the filling of the vacancy."

"In my opinion the Sunshine Council's administration needs drastic reorganisation in the interests of the people."

Mr. Tedge's eligibility was thrown into doubt last year when it was alleged he

**Election quandary**

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# Sunshine Advocate

## Search for John brings 100

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# Advocate

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## Mother sees hope in every hill that searchers comb

# SEARCH FOR JOHN BRINGS OUT 100

**MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE** combed the tiny township of Lorne last Saturday for information on missing 13-year-old North Sunshine schoolboy John Landos.

As a result of the day's search, police are satisfied that the boy was still in the Lorne area in February — almost a month after he disappeared from a Lorne caravan park on January 8.

But his present whereabouts remain a mystery. Pamphlets offering a \$1000 reward were widely distributed last Saturday and during Easter more will be handed out during the Lorne Community Hospital's annual door-knock.

Members of the search party carried out a door-knock and life saving clubs were checked.

**Hundreds of people were questioned.**

After Saturday's search a number of leads were handed over to Inspector A.G. Stewart, of Geelong police.

### STILL IN LORNE?

Inspector Stewart told *The Advocate* that, as a result, he was satisfied that the boy was still in the Lorne area in February.

On Monday, Inspector Stewart told *The Advocate* that the leads had been investigated and nothing fresh had been uncovered.

He said it was unlikely that the boy was still in the Lorne area.

On January 8 this year, John returned to the family campsite too late to go hunting rabbits with his father.

There was an argument — and John has not been seen by his family since.

### HITCH-HIKE

It was thought that he might have tried to hitch-hike to find his father at Deans Marsh, about 20 miles from Lorne.

The most likely theory now is that the boy has joined a group of surfies and if this is correct, he could be anywhere within Australia.

A massive sighting occurred on February 6 at the Pacific Hotel, Lorne.

### MAY HAVE JOINED SURFIES

A boy answering John's description ordered a meal and showed preference for certain vegetables. These preferences tallied with the boy's likes and dislikes.

### PARENTS

The boy's parents were at the search headquarters during last Saturday's search.

The search — organised by the Nylex Corporation and the office of Dr Jim Cairns, MHR — had its headquarters at the Lorne Surf Life Saving Club.

The Lorne branch of the Red Cross catered for the members of the search party, and the Lorne Surf Life Saving Club allowed its clubrooms to be used as headquarters. The PMG installed a phone for the day.

Mr Landos expresses his gratitude to the organisers and those who took part in the search.

He said he was "very pleased and grateful" that so many people turned out to look for his son.

The Nylex Corporation involved itself in the search because the boy's father has been employed by the corporation for the past 20 years.



• Mrs. Landos

### PRICES PROTEST-P.3

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# Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/509702762472925/posts/the-evening-13-year-old-john-landos-went-missing-the-wheal-family-was-at-the-kit/3023774251065751/>

## Australia Missing Person Register

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

The evening 13 year old John Landos went missing, the Wheal family was at the kitchen table of their house overlooking the road from Lorne to Deans Marsh in Victoria. Wheals' was the last house before Lorne's outskirts ran into bush. So when they saw a slight teenage boy walking away from town, they wondered why. The sun was setting, shadows were deepening in the Otways and the boy was moving purposefully. "Where's he going?" Peter Wheal would recall one of his parents asking as the small figure walked on. They were the last to see him alive. Earlier that afternoon, John had been playing with friends in another tent. His father Kyriakos had told him he could go shooting with him and the others in the evening if he was ready at 5pm. Kyriakos wasn't a keen shooter - he went for the exercise and the company - but his son wanted to be included. The men gathered to go but John hadn't turned up. His father shrugged and said he would take him next time. When John returned to find he'd been left behind, he was angry. "He was crying and his face changed colour," his mother recalls. She tried to calm him but he started to walk off, holding the hand of his little brother Andrew, then 7. His mother said to leave Andrew with her, and he did. She went into the tent to do something. Later, someone asked "Where's John?" and she said "He's outside." But he wasn't. It was more than 20 kilometres to Deans Marsh, too far to walk, but his mother hoped he might have hitched a ride. In fact, he most likely did accept a lift. But the driver suspected of picking him up was a serial paedophile who would rather kill than go back to jail. He was known to police because he'd been offending for 20 years but no one thought to knock on his door until another boy went missing nearly two years later. The homicide squad took Reginald Isaacs from Pentridge Prison to Russell Street and questioned him about John Landos. Isaacs admitted using the Deans Marsh road in early 1973 while cutting tea tree in the area, but denied seeing the boy. That night, he attempted suicide.

Isaacs was committed to stand trial for Greg Cowie's murder in early 1975. He was automatically sentenced to death but the sentence would be commuted to a minimum life sentence. But on April 30, 1975, he was found dead with towelling knotted around

his neck in a cell in Pentridge's D Division. John Landos has never been found. Thanks to Andrew Rule for this account of John's story.