



# Newsletter

## Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal

10 OCTOBER 2017

*This newsletter is issued by Colac Otway Shire to provide the community key updates following the fire.*

### Wye River & Separation Creek Building Forum

The Wye River & Separation Creek Building Forum has grown into a 'must do' for property owners and industry experts alike. Held at the Geelong Conference Centre on 22 October, where nine key note speakers will discuss issues relating to their field of expertise.

This will follow with the opportunity for property owners to ask questions and freely discuss matters that relate to their own building experience.

**Wye River & Separation Creek Building Forum**  
**Sunday 22 October 11am till 3pm, lunch provided**

**Geelong Conference Centre, Eastern Gardens**  
**To register your attendance at this free event:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wye-river-separation-creek-building-forum-at-geelong-conference-centre-tickets-36992481508>

The Geelong Conference Centre was chosen as the most suitable venue to host the Forum due to its proximity to both Melbourne and Wye River, as well as having excellent conference facilities and ample parking for visitors.

Background: in October last year the Colac Otway Shire as auspice for the Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group were successful in securing funding from Regional Development Victoria and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Recovery to deliver a Trades and Services Event. What has evolved since then are two projects aimed at stimulating the economic development of trade and service businesses in the region and assisting property owners to gain knowledge and understanding of building in the region – the Building Forum and the Trades and Services directory.

The Trades and Services directory will come in the form of a printed booklet. For the last few months Expressions of Interest have been sought from trade and service businesses in the region, offering free inclusion in the directory. The response has been fantastic and we now have over 400 listings. We aim to have the directory completed by the end of October.

### WYE RIVER & SEPARATION CREEK BUILDING FORUM

Sharing Experiences & Solutions



An interactive building forum designed to assist land owners to navigate the building process and get advice from industry experts

#### Key Note Speakers

**Anna Borthwick | Planner**

Colac Otway Shire Recovery Planning Coordinator  
Plan A Town Planning & Consultancy

**Anthony Miner | Geotechnical**

Colac Otway Shire Consulting Geotechnical Engineer  
AS Miner Geotechnical

**Dave Horwood | Geotechnical**

AGR GeoSciences

**Kris Thomas | Building Designer**

KTB Thomas Building Design

**Jonathan Brett | Water Treatment**

Colac Otway Shire, Environmental Health Coordinator

**Jack Everitt | Builder**

Great Ocean Road Builders

**Dave Kohout | Plumbing**

H2O Plumbing Solutions

**Mike Robinson-Koss | Landscaping**

Owley Greening

**Tristan Crews | Fire Awareness**

Colac Otway Shire Fire Awareness Officer

Plus many more industry experts available for discussion and advice.

This is a free event for members of the Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River Communities  
LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

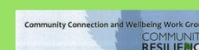
**SUNDAY**  
**22 OCTOBER**  
**11am till 3pm**

GEELONG CONFERENCE CENTRE  
EASTERN GARDENS

20 Adams Court, East Geelong

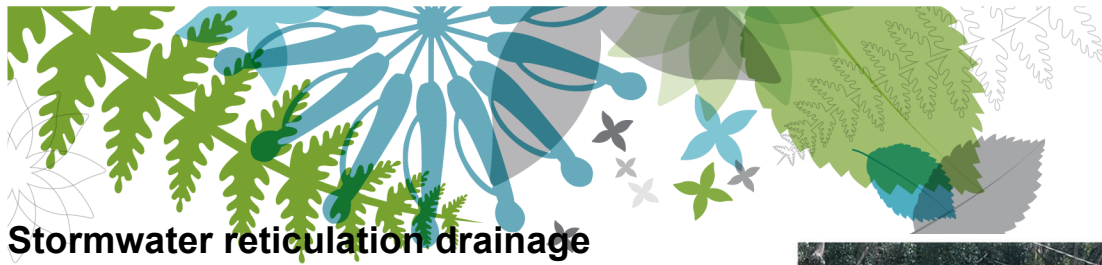
TO REGISTER OR ENQUIRE  
Contact Yvette Hill - [yvette.hill@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:yvette.hill@colacotway.vic.gov.au)

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



### Retaining walls

Colac Otway Shire's contractors have completed construction of all retaining walls four weeks ahead of schedule. Thank you for your patience during the construction period. We will now undertake minor reinstatement works over the next few weeks, and minor drainage works at 31 Karingal Drive and Riverside Drive.



## Stormwater reticulation drainage design

Thank you to everyone who attended the community drop-in sessions at the end of August. More than 30 people attended the Wye River and Melbourne sessions, and more than 40 provided comments on the concept designs. We've individually responded to everyone who submitted feedback, and 90 per cent of the feedback has been addressed in changes to the plans.

The detailed designs are being completed, with construction contracts to be put out to tender in late October. At this stage, construction will commence after the Australia Day weekend in late January 2018.

### Drainage design environmental Impact Statement

It is expected that the Environmental Impact Statement will be released via WyeSep Connect on 16 October. The community will be invited to provide feedback by 22 October to the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group of WSKRA via [wskrasn@gmail.com](mailto:wskrasn@gmail.com).

This feedback will be tabled at a meeting between the Work Group and Colac Otway Shire about the plan. A written response from the Work Group will be released on WyeSep Connect. The community members on the Work Group are Joanne Tyler (chair), Juliet Le Feuvre, Yvonne Sheppard, Ted Gannan and Mary Eckhardt.

### Stanway Drive traffic management

Thank you very much to all the 113 community members who provided feedback and comments on Stanway Drive traffic management survey. The survey is now closed, and we will be analysing feedback this week and updating you shortly.

So far, the vast majority of the community has said they would prefer Stanway Drive to be: "Temporarily open with one-way traffic allowed from Iluka Avenue to Stanway Drive during the peak construction period for housing and drainage."



*Stanway Drive*

### Stanway Drive landslip remediation works

We are now accepting quotes for the design of remediation works for the high side embankment and creek bank, and will be consulting with the community as part of the design process.

We will also be completing temporary drainage works in October to control the run-off from Iluka extension to Stanway Drive. We will place temporary rock beaching where slips have narrowed the road, to ensure access to Stanway Drive is maintained.

### Mental Health Week – Forum at Lorne Community Hospital

The Lorne Community Hospital is holding a Mental Health Forum during Mental Health Week on Tuesday 10 October from 6pm at the Senior Citizens Centre.

This evening will be a chance for the community to get together over a light meal generously donated by the Lorne Lions Club.

An opportunity to hear some interesting speakers share some strategies for dealing with mental health issues for yourself, your family, your neighbours and building a more resilient community.





Superb Fairy Wrens and Currawong. The students even found a koala munching on a eucalypt tree much to their delight, not something seen every day in Bendigo.

Green Army participants and the students were astounded by how bountiful the site was and how well it was recovering from the 2015 fire event. The long-term vision of the project is for the Certificate IV students to revisit and monitor the fire recovery process year after year and collect survey data for SOLN.

The surveys come after the Green Army team worked hard to remove a truck load of Flax-Leaved Broom, Asparagus Fern, Cape Wattle and Fleabane from the reserve by hand over two days in July making room for native species to thrive.

Let's continue to build resilience in our small community.  
Let's gather strategies for dealing with mental health issues - for ourself, our family, especially our children or our neighbours.

**What:** Mental Health Forum with Guest Speakers.  
**When:** Tuesday 10 October from 6pm - 8.30pm  
**Where:** Lorne Senior Citizens Centre  
**Dinner:** Light meal & tea and coffee provided  
**Cost:** Free

For further information, please contact Karyn Hogg on 5289 4383.

Supported by:   

## Students discover Harrington Park is teeming with native Otway species

The abundance and diversity of native flora and bird species at the Harrington Park reserve was the focus of fire recovery surveys undertaken earlier this month.

Southern Otway Landcare Network's skilled Green Army team took the initiative to lead Certificate IV - Conservation and Land management students from Bendigo TAFE in the environmental surveys.

The eager students braved the rain, wind and cold to assess and record the fire recovery response of the reserve; which included identifying native Otway's flora, invasive weeds, as well as bird and animal species present at the site.

"With fire being a natural process in the Australian environment, certain native plant species have adapted to rely upon fire to germinate," said Dylan James, SOLD Green Army Team Leader.

"The seed bed at the reserve had been building for some years and seems to have been sparked by the burn as well as by disturbance and ash deposits following the fire, which have led to the growth of a diverse and unique mix of plant species."

Local flora species recorded included; Hazel Pomaderris, Forest Clematis, Snowy and Musk Daisy, Prickly Moses, Blue Gum, Blackwood, Prickly Currant Bush, Manna Gum, Native Tussock Grasses, Dogwood, Hemp Bush and Bidgee Widgee. Bird species included: Crimson Rosella,



*Southern Otway Landcare Network's skilled Green Army team*

## Amy's Gran Fondo

On the weekend of the 16 and 17 September over 6,000 riders visited the region to participate in the Amy's Gran Fondo event. The event is a cycling festival that is held in memory of Australian cycling team member Amy Gillet, who died when on a training ride in Germany in 2005.

The Great Ocean Road was one of Amy's favourite places to ride. In 2017 in response to Council's direction to develop more activities in Apollo Bay,



two new events were held over the weekend, the Cyclo Cross and Gravel Fondo. The Medio Fondo again started in Apollo Bay and finished in Lorne.

Council is interested in hearing community feedback about the event and would appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey.

This survey is open until 4pm Friday 13 Oct 2017. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017AGFReview>

## Community Resilience Committee Update

### CRC transitions to WSKRA

The Community Resilience Committee has incorporated and will from now on be known as the Wye Sep Kennett Renewal Association Inc. (WSKRA). Its purpose and functions are unchanged – to champion and guide a community led and community based approach to the renewal of our community after the 2015 fire and the following landslips. The terms of reference for WSKRA can be found here <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/WSKRA-Inc.Community-Resilience-Committee>

As before, the committee comprises community representatives – Diane Sisely, Joanne Tyler, Deborah Hocking, Ian Angus, Paul Greene, Roy Moriarty and Mark Stokes - and representatives of the major community associations, namely Wye River Surf Life Saving Club (Deborah Hocking), Wye River CFA (Andrew Hack), Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association (Toni Lawson) and Kennett River Association (Geoff Quinn).

The WSKRA office bearers are – President Diane Sisely, Vice President Joanne Tyler, Secretary Toni Lawson and Treasurer Paul Greene. The four Work Groups – Community Connections and Wellbeing, Flora, Fauna and Beachscape, Planning, Building and Fire and Business and Tourism continue with their work, as sub-committees of WSKRA.

We encourage and welcome all members of the Wye, Sep and Kennett community to stay involved with the work of WSKRA. The first AGM for WSKRA will be held in February next year.

While membership of the WSKRA committee is for 12 months, at this first AGM three community members will step down from the committee and thereby provide an opportunity for other members of WSKRA to express their interest in joining the committee.

If you are interested in joining the committee, or voting at the AGM, you will need to complete a membership application form stating you support the principles and purposes of the association. The membership form is available here: <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/WSKRA-Inc.Community-Resilience-Committee>

### Our PV submission

The CRC (now WSKRA) was invited to make a detailed submission direct to Parks Victoria about how \$3.4 million renewal funds could be used for maximum benefit. Our 6-page response is based on the Renewal Plan and Statement of Values agreed by the community and was lodged on Sept 26. Its themes are revegetation and weed removal, Wye to Sep beach walk/board walk, extension of the Great Ocean Walk, walking tracks at Wye/Sep/Kennett, toilets and history.

Thank you to everyone across Wye/Sep/Kennett who provided ideas and comments. Read it here: <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/WSKRA-Inc.Community-Resilience-Committee>

### Meeting with COS Interim CEO

We met with Robert Dobrzynski and senior COS staff at Wye River this week. We provided a briefing on the Renewal Plan and ongoing issues.

### Understanding and Planning for Bushfire Risk

The Wye River CFA is planning to hold an event on the morning of November 4 to support understanding of our risk this fire season and explore options to improve our safety. The presentation will include computer generated mapping (Phoenix modelling), and information from the CSIRO about how we can harden our townships against fire. Details will be on WyeSep Connect.





### Cup Weekend event: Wye/Sep/Kennett

The Kennett River Association would like to invite residents from the communities of Kennett River-Wye River-Separation Creek-Grey River for a social barbecue "connecting with communities along the great ocean road" Saturday Nov 4, 4.30 pm.

Picnic Area at Kennett River (next to the river) \$10 a Family or \$5 a head. Meat and salad supplied. BYO: Drinks, seats, plates and cutlery. RSVP: October 20 to Andrew Taylor [andrewmgdesign@bigpond.com](mailto:andrewmgdesign@bigpond.com)



### Subsidy to underground private power lines

To see if you are eligible, see:

<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/electricity/powerline-replacement-fund>

**Contact us** through our new address

[wskrasn@gmail.com](mailto:wskrasn@gmail.com), or

[crcwyeseppcommunityreps@gmail.com](mailto:crcwyeseppcommunityreps@gmail.com) or talk to any of us around town!

## Parks Victoria Update

### Renewal Funds

Parks Victoria has received funding to assist with recovery of communities that were affected by the Wye River-Jamieson Track fires. Over the last month we have been gathering ideas from the local community and other stakeholders about projects that could be implemented with this money.

Thank you to the 48 people who attended the listening posts on Friday 29 September in Wye River and Kennett River to comment on the project ideas that have come forward to date.

Some of the more popular ideas included walking trails (e.g. near Jamieson River, and around Separation Creek, Wye River and Kennett River),

weed removal (in line with priorities already identified through community engagement), and toilets and picnic ground upgrade at Kennett River.

Following consolidation of the feedback we will run the project list through a set of six criteria, which includes level of community support. This will enable us to come up with a prioritised list that will go to the Parks Victoria executive for approval.

## VicRoads October update

### Current works

VicRoads has been pushing ahead with a series of major stabilisation works along the Great Ocean Road. A year after damaging rains caused more than 160 landslides, some of them major, considerable progress has been made.

Fragile cliff faces have been locked down with steel mesh, concrete and Gabion stone retaining walls have been erected, under-road culverts replaced, sections of road repaved, dozens of hillsides stabilised and work has begun on a new bridge at Grey River.

As spring presents more favourable weather, road works and further stabilisation projects are being stepped up.



*Stabilised hillsides west of Wye River*

### Rock netting

The installation of rock-fall netting on nine cliff faces between Lorne and Cape Patton was completed last week.

Galvanised steel mesh is anchored to the cliff faces to prevent loose rock falling onto the Great Ocean Road. The \$2 million project took five months to complete and focused on high-priority locations. VicRoads is now scoping another rock-fall netting project involving a further 18 sites along the same section of road.



### **Walking track**

VicRoads has collaborated with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee to create a safer bushwalking path on the popular Tramway Track between Lorne and St George River.

As part of a rock-fall netting project, geo-technical experts installed about 40 metres of steel hand railing on the path edge at the crest of a hill above the Great Ocean Road.



*A new safety fence on Tramway Track, west of Lorne*

### **Skenes Creek Bridge**

To improve safety for pedestrians and motorists, VicRoads is repairing a damaged pedestrian barrier on the ocean side of the Skenes Creek Bridge on the Great Ocean Road.

The bridge is the key pedestrian link across the creek. To complete these works safely and efficiently, the speed limit across the bridge will be reduced to 40km/h from Monday 9 to Friday 20 October.

The Great Ocean Road will remain open, with the area to remain under traffic control for the duration of the works.

To minimise disruption, we have scheduled these works after the school holidays when traffic levels are lower. Repairs to the damaged railing are expected to be completed in two weeks, weather permitting.

### **Paddy's Path**

The laying of erosion control mat and wire mesh on the Paddy's Path hillside, in the landslide zone, has now been completed. Hydro seeding and the planting of 2800 Indigenous plants will occur further into spring.

The timber footbridge that spans the landslide area, and concrete approach paths have also been completed. Horizontal groundwater drains have been installed on the upper side of Paddy's Path to funnel excess groundwater.

Further soil nailing below 21-23 Iluka Avenue has also been completed. A 290 metre-long area where mudslides have occurred, on the inland side of the Great Ocean Road immediately east of Stanway Drive in Separation Creek, will also be soil nailed in mid November. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2018.

VicRoads staff and contractors will minimise road works in the Wye River area between December 22 and February 4, during the peak summer holiday season.

### **Retaining walls**

Work has begun on two further retaining walls west of Stanway Drive on the ocean side of the Great Ocean Road.

Work is also due to start on an under-road landslide, 400m east of Separation Creek. One lane of the Great Ocean Road will be closed and traffic management will be in place for this six to eight-week project.

Work continues at Monash Gully, 5km west of Wye River, to restore the road where a landslide occurred in August. This project is due for completion at the end of October.





### **Erosion control**

Work to stabilise up to 50 landslide sites between Jamieson River and Kennett River are nearing completion. The work involves the laying of erosion control matting, steel mesh, the installation of soil nails and dressing with hydro-seed.

Work also continues on six cliff faces that require rock fall netting in the Kennett River area.

Work has begun at Big Hill, just east of Lorne, to install 360m of rock-fall netting. Work is expected to take about eight weeks.

### **Grey River**

Work has begun on constructing a new bridge at Grey River, east of Apollo Bay. Work crews have begun boring piles into the rock bed on the west side of the river.

One lane of the Great Ocean Road is temporarily closed for earth works on the approaches to the new bridge. Traffic management is in place.



*Boring piles for the new Grey River Bridge*

### **Apollo Bay**

Work is progressing to schedule on the reconstruction of the Great Ocean Road in Apollo Bay, between the golf course at Nelson Street to the Barham River Bridge.

Kerb and channel, footpaths and driveways have been completed on the ocean side and a new road base has been installed along most of the 900-metre section.

This major piece of road reconstruction is due for completion at the end of November. Traffic management is in place.

### **Princetown**

Seven kilometres of road reconstruction work is progressing on three sites on the Great Ocean Road, 15km east of Port Campbell, near Princetown.

The existing road is being fully replaced with a new base and bitumen surface and 1m shoulders are being installed. Traffic management is in place, with work scheduled to be completed by Christmas.

### **Moggs Creek**

We've begun consulting the community for the replacement of the Moggs Creek Bridge on the Great Ocean Road. The new bridge will provide a safer, stronger and more reliable bridge for the local community and growing numbers of visitors to the Great Ocean Road. The Australian and Victorian governments have committed \$3 million to upgrade the bridge in 2018/19.

In September, about 80 local residents attended an information session in Fairhaven to view and discuss concept plans. We are consulting with a range of local community groups, businesses, councils and road users to identify the interests and needs for the replacement bridge. For more information, drop us an email.



*An artist's impression of approaches to a new Moggs Creek Bridge*