



# Newsletter

Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal

2 JULY 2017

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

## Rebuilding progress update

Colac Otway Shire has now issued 33 planning permits for replacement houses under the streamlined controls together with 6 pre-existing permits, which allow rebuilding.

Five planning applications for replacement houses are currently being processed. When all current planning permit applications for replacement dwellings are determined there will be 44 (40.4%) of destroyed dwellings with a planning permit that allows rebuilding.

As the intention survey confirmed, a high proportion of property owners are intending to rebuild – 67.5% of respondents.

Council continues to waiver various permit fees, which has saved the property owners over \$100,000 in permit fees since the Christmas Day 2015 fires.

The State Government has been funding the operation of the One Stop Shop since February 2016. However the State Government funding is concluding and additional funding has not been possible to obtain, so therefore in the future, Council will not be in a position to waive permit fees.

Given the end of funding and very limited requests, we have now ceased the Melbourne One Stop Shop service. This will support continuation of a dedicated One Stop Shop service.

The permit fee waiving will cease in the near future, but no earlier than 30 September 2017. We encourage any property owners that are considering applying for permits to do so as soon as possible.



The Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group invite the communities of Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River to a Winter Community Lunch on Sunday 9 July from 12pm till 3pm  
Wye River Surf Life Saving Club  
BBQ | Refreshments | Irish Ballads | Kids Activities

NO COST | NO SPEECHES | NO FUNDRAISING | NO SURVEYS

## Permits and traffic management required for all builders and contractors

Non-council contractors, sub-contractors and builders working in Wye River and Separation Creek must have a permit for any works requiring traffic control and/or road closure. Traffic management controls must be in place for any short or long-term road closures or delays.

A 'Non Utility Minor Works within Municipal Road Reserves' form, found at <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-the-shire/Permits-applications-forms/Works-on-Roads> is required to be submitted and approved by Council before construction can commence.

To assist in arranging permits for road closures and/or traffic management plans, please contact Damien Burton on [Damien.burton@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:Damien.burton@colacotway.vic.gov.au) Mobile 0427 092 254 or Boyd Williams on [Boyd.Williams@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:Boyd.Williams@colacotway.vic.gov.au)



Residents, builders and other stakeholders will be notified via Facebook posts on [www.facebook.com/wyeseconnect](https://www.facebook.com/wyeseconnect) and the website [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyeseconnect](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyeseconnect) for any future traffic controlled works.

## Reinstatement of infrastructure

Council has completed the Iluka Avenue extension including three stormwater culverts, stormwater pits, spoon drains and swale pits.



We are also doing stormwater culvert and road works in Koonya Avenue, Dunoon Road, Karingal Road and Durimbil Avenue in Wye River. These works will be completed by early July.

The Stanway Drive emergency access gates have been installed and are currently open. Drainage redesign improvements and a guardrail will be implemented on Stanway Drive next week.

A picture of the new Stanway Drive emergency access gate is in the next column.



## Retaining walls on Council land

Colac Otway Shire has begun a program to construct 21 retaining walls across Wye River and Separation Creek. Construction began on Tuesday 20 June 2017 and will continue for approximately six months, subject to weather.

The new walls will replace retaining walls located within the Council road reserve that were damaged in the bushfire. Council will be using non-combustible materials including steel I-beams and reinforced concrete sleepers for new structures to increase their resilience to future fire events.

The 21 retaining walls will be constructed in stages of multiple walls. We will advise community members and stakeholders of each stage of works, approximately one week before work commences.

All residents of the properties concerned will be contacted individually by phone prior to the commencement of works.



Residents involved are already aware of the retaining wall construction, having signed access deeds and chosen a wall colour in the past few months. In addition, we will also communicate the commencement dates and approximate duration of each stage of works via Facebook posts on [www.facebook.com/wyeseconnect](https://www.facebook.com/wyeseconnect) and the website [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyeseop](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyeseop)

### **Traffic and safety**

Traffic management will be required during the construction period, with traffic speeds reduced from 20 to 10 kilometres an hour during the times of construction. Traffic management signage and barriers will be in place in each work zone.

Every intention is to ensure roads are kept open during the retaining wall construction period. Any changes will be communicated.

Each worksite is considered a safety zone during construction, from 7am-5pm Monday to Friday. The work zone contains multiple safety hazards and heavy dangerous mobile equipment and needs to be treated with caution.

Traffic management signage and barriers will be in place in each work zone. All drivers and pedestrians need to be escorted through the work zone by the Traffic Control Officer.

### **First and second stages of construction**

The contractor performing the scheduled works, Leprechaun Landscaping, commenced works in Separation Creek on Tuesday 20 June 2017. The first stage of construction comprised of three retaining walls within the road reserve in Separation Creek adjacent to the following properties: 11 Bass Avenue, Separation Creek, 32 Harrington Street, Separation Creek and 1 Mitchell Grove, Separation Creek.

These walls have been completed three weeks ahead of schedule, on Friday 23 June. This was achieved thanks to good weather, local residents understanding the work requirements and the understanding of the other trade professionals working in the area. Thank you everyone.

Stage two will begin on 27 June, with construction to continue for approximately three and a half weeks. This stage comprises retaining walls within the road reserve adjacent to the following properties in Karingal Drive, Wye River: 12, 14, 28, 31, 44-46, and 61 Karingal Drive.



## **Harrington Park works update**

Colac Otway Shire has completed the reinstatement works in Harrington Park. The park bench, concrete path and timber handrail have been reinstated and the five trees needing pruning have been treated. The work has been completed ahead of schedule and the entire park is now open to the public.

## **Stormwater drainage design**

Thankyou to everyone who attended our recent stormwater drainage design drop-in sessions in Melbourne and Wye River. Twenty residents and property owners provide their expertise and feedback, to help us provide a design that will improve the management of stormwater and address erosion and sediment control issues within the entire township areas.

Cardno are now working on the concept design, and we will let you know when it is complete and do another round of community consultation.



*Harrington Park*

## Hazardous tree removal and pruning

Council commissioned an independent Arborist to undertake an assessment of the condition of trees on Council controlled land in November 2016. The report recommended that 13 trees be removed and that 15 be pruned. This work was carried out prior to Easter.

We recently engaged our independent Arborist to survey these trees for a second time. Based on this report, 13 trees were pruned and dead wood removed, and an additional three trees on Council land were removed. Work was completed in June. Council's objective to retain as many trees as possible has not changed. We will continue to monitor the safety of trees on Council land on an ongoing basis.

## Wye Winter Photography Competition



Given the success of the 'Wye I Love' Summer Photographic Competition, the Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group have decided to run another one!

**'Wye Winter'** Post your photos of Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River as the seasons change on Facebook or Instagram. **HASHTAG #wyewinter or #wyeilove.**

A professional judging panel will judge the photos and winners will be announced on Melbourne Cup Weekend. Prizes include a voucher from the Wye Beach Hotel and the General Store.

So get involved, post as many photos as you want, spread the word why you love Wye.

## Fire-Resistant Demonstration Garden Underway

A garden to demonstrate fire-resistant land management and planting practices is being developed in the heart of Wye River. Colac Otway Shire Council has been working with the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group and Southern Otway Landcare Network to establish the garden, which will be alongside Morley Avenue, behind the Wye Beach Hotel.

Those who are familiar with the site will know recent conditions have led to the spread of many different weeds, including a lot of woody weeds, such as Sweet Pittosporum, and that parts of the area are very steep and difficult to manage.

It was chosen as the most suitable location for the demonstration garden, because of both its prominent location and the fact that the terrain is similar to that of many private properties in Wye River and Separation Creek. We hope it will help inspire landowners with practical solutions as they redevelop their gardens.

The first stage of works to prepare the site for the garden is now underway. This process involves removing all weeds above ground, while leaving root



systems in the earth to help keep the area stabilised. Weeds will then be controlled on the site, with planting set to occur in winter 2018.

The next stage of works will be carefully designing the garden as appropriate to the specifics of the site. The Landscaping Your Coastal Garden for Bushfire booklet, which is available for download at <http://bit.ly/2u09z67>, will be the primary resource for choosing species to plant.

Rocks, sand, native grasses and succulents will all be incorporated into the design, and the different elements of the garden will be showcased through plant labelling and interpretative signage.



## Construction, Traffic and Environment Management Plan

On Wednesday 28 June Council approved the Construction, Traffic and Environment Management Plan (Plan), which was developed by Colac Otway Shire and Coffey to guide construction during the rebuild phase of renewal.

The Plan has considered three main factors: the amenity of residents and visitors to the area; traffic management; and management and mitigation of environmental factors.

The Plan will provide residents planning to develop or construct residences on their land with guidance on meeting the planning approval requirements of Colac Otway Shire. Many of the management measures provided in this plan are based on Victorian government policy or legislation; others have been introduced by Colac Otway Shire to meet the requirements of the communities of Wye River and Separation Creek.

Colac Otway Shire, along with all residents and principal contractors will ultimately be responsible for the implementation of the Plan for Wye River and Separation Creek and communication with all relevant stakeholders. This will involve:

- Enforcement of compliance with EPA Maximum Construction times to moderate the impact of construction activities on the local community's amenity
- Implementation of the temporary traffic management plan and associated parking restrictions to ensure the safe movement of traffic and minimize the risks to vehicle operators and pedestrians. This includes the enforcement of a 20 km/hr speed limit for the area.
- Enforcement of current legislation and, if required, higher control standards stipulated within the plan to minimize damage to the environment and amenity.

The CTEMP will be administered through the use of planning and building permits within the Wye River and Separation Creek townships. Landowners wishing to rebuild will have to comply with the requirements of the CTEMP and ensure that all contractors also strictly adhere to the plan. These requirements will be issued on all future planning permits for demolition/removal of a building, construction of a new building, or construction of retaining walls over 1m in height.

Please see the Plan at:

<http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-the-shire/Reports-strategies-plans/Wye-River-and-Separation-Creek-Recovery-Reports>

## Community Resilience Committee Report

The CRC has been busy tracking progress against the agreed deliverables in the Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal Plan.

<http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-the-shire/Reports-strategies-plans/Wye-River-and-Separation-Creek-Recovery-Reports>

You can read about this in the minutes of our last meeting. <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Community-Resilience-Committee>



To support the plan, we tabled a response to the Colac Otway Shire Draft Budget.

<http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-the-shire/Reports-strategies-plans/Wye-River-and-Separation-Creek-Recovery-Reports>

Over the last month we have also been liaising with VicRoads about revegetation around the Store and management of noise from the Paddy's Path restoration, COS about approaches to rate collection and drainage. The Work Groups have also been busy!

## Planning Building and Fire Update

### Construction, Traffic & Environment Management Plan

The PBF Work Group made a written submission to COS broadly endorsing the CTE Management Plan, which has been formally adopted by COS at its meeting on June 28.

### One Stop Shop

Current funding runs to June 30, but the service will be extended for a further limited period. Extra resources are required through COS to ensure prompt turnaround. Planning and building applications are complex due to nature of the area and construction implications.

### Waiving of Fees

- Planning & building application fees have been waived by COS since the fire.
- COS will need to revisit arrangements around this due to ongoing funding constraints.

### Wye Sep Drainage Program Update

- Council has resourced drop-in sessions locally and in Melbourne, with good uptake.
- COS will continue to take on feedback and report back and community input will feed into final detailed design.

### Community Based Bushfire Management Plan

- Council will be issuing the annual notices about compliance around fuel management well prior to the commencement of the fire season.
- Information forums will be scheduled around the Melbourne Cup Weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November for drop in sessions and presentations at Wye River.

## Power Restoration Projects

- Following owner surveys, Bass Avenue will have replacement conventional poles & wires.
- Iluka Avenue: We are seeking landowner commitment to supporting an underground cable option and meeting the additional cost. 19 of 25 landowners supportive at last survey, but Powercor must proceed with power restoration and this requires Iluka residents to resolve their collective position as a priority.

## Community Connection and Wellbeing Projects Wye Winter Community Lunch, Surf Life Saving Club, July 9, 12 noon – 3 pm

All welcome, celtic muso, food and fun stuff for kids. Brush away the winter blues and get together in midwinter. Some representatives from [Fire Foxes](http://FireFoxes.org.au) will be coming along. No charge! (Firefoxes.org.au)

### Noise:

The group has been encouraging communication between community members and VicRoads about noise on the Iluka Hillside.

**The Wye Experience** – intention is to collect, collate and curate an exhibition of reflections, recollections and stories of Wye about any aspect in any medium. The artefacts may then be captured in a book or DVD for posterity

**Trades and Services Directory** of local businesses – This will be distributed throughout Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River – contact [Yvette.Hill@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:Yvette.Hill@colacotway.vic.gov.au) to register. A trades and Services Expo is also planned – watch this space!

## Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Workgroup Revegetation Support program

The Flora Fauna and Beachscape Workgroup has played a major role in the development of the Revegetation Support program, along with DELWP, Colac Otway Shire and the Southern Otway Landcare Network.

Owners of fire affected properties interested in obtaining free plants indigenous to Wye River are encouraged to lodge an expression of interest see <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Revegetation-Support-Program>



## Revegetation and Weed Management Workshop

On the Queen's Birthday holiday we held a very well attended workshop about management of fire affected trees, revegetation and weeds in Harrington Park, in conjunction with SOLN.

Mike Robinson-Koss of Otway Greening led the event and suggested some useful books: [Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia](#), [Flora of the Otway Plains and Ranges 1](#), and [Flora of the Otway Plains and Ranges 2](#)

Further resources are at <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Environment>.



## VicRoads Wye River pedestrian project

VicRoads is installing pedestrian islands on the Great Ocean Road at Wye River.

The islands will help pedestrians cross between car parking and the surf beach and the town's facilities at this popular holiday destination. They will be located between the general store and the main access point to the beach, bus stop and car parking across the road (see diagram below).

This project delivers on a community request to create a safer beach and township pedestrian link across the Great Ocean Road.

Works will include the pedestrian islands, a traffic island at the nearby Wongara Drive intersection, new coloured exposed aggregate footpaths, kerbs, line marking in the car parks and sealed parking bays in Morley Avenue.

The \$130,000 project began in early June and should take about four weeks to complete. Traffic management will be in place on the Great Ocean Road during construction. VicRoads invites the community to comment on its works by emailing us at [greatoceanroad@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:greatoceanroad@roads.vic.gov.au)

The pedestrian safety improvement image is on the next page.

## The Business and Tourism Work Group

Is involved in a Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism initiative to support the return of tourism to our area. How would you like Wye River and Separation Creek to be known by tourists? Please click on the link below to go directly to a survey.

The survey closes Monday July 3, 10am.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OtwaysVillages>

See the Community Resilience Committee at the Wye Winter Community Lunch; email us at [crcwyesepcommunityreps@gmail.com](mailto:crcwyesepcommunityreps@gmail.com). Speak to us around town – the Community Representatives on the CRC are Diane Sisely, Joanne Tyler, Mark Stokes, Roy Moriarty, Andrew Hack, Geoff Quinn, Debra Hocking, Paul Greene and Ian Angus.



# Great Ocean Road, Wye River

## Safety improvements for pedestrians

