

Newsletter

Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal

29 MAY 2017

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

New communications processes for renewal phase

As outlined in the last couple of newsletters, we have new communications processes for the renewal phase. Colac Otway Shire is responsible for all of the following communications channels:

- WyeSep Connect has transitioned to Council's website, at: colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyesepp
- Facebook: facebook.com/WyeSepConnect
- Periodic renewal newsletters distributed around key infrastructure milestones, approximately monthly at the end of each month.
- Community drop-in sessions in Wye River for feedback on specific projects
- The bushfire recovery email: Bushfire.recovery@colacotway.vic.gov.au

Community members are welcome to contribute to the newsletter, website and Facebook pages. Please send updates, news posts, meeting minutes, and articles for the website and Facebook page to Yvette Hill: yvette.hill@colacotway.vic.gov.au or 5232 9400.

Service Charter

To help you know whom to contact at Council and to ensure we continue to meet your needs Colac Otway Shire has produced a **Service Charter**, specifically for the communities of Wye River and Separation Creek, which outlines our service commitment to you. The Charter is at: colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyesepp

Morley Avenue temporary closure

Colac Otway Shire is currently constructing a retaining wall to protect Morley Avenue, with work beginning on Monday 22 May and finishing on Monday 12 June. Morley Avenue will be closed during the works. Residents can access their houses via Slashers Bypass. We apologise for any inconvenience during this time.

Colac Otway Shire / P: (03) 5232 9400 / www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

Stormwater drainage design drop-in sessions

Colac Otway Shire has contracted Cardno to design the reticulated stormwater drainage system it is installing across Wye River and Separation Creek.

The aim is to provide a design that will improve the management of stormwater and address erosion and sediment control issues within the entire township areas.

The design phase will be completed in the middle of this year, with construction to follow. The project will be completed by mid 2018.

As part of this project we will be consulting with residents to gain a local perspective on drainage issues. Two community drop-in sessions will be held in early June for residents to provide stormwater-related feedback.

Stormwater drainage design community drop-in sessions:

Tuesday 6 June between 5:00 - 7:30pm Cardno's office on Level 4, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Thursday 8 June between 4-6:30pm – Wye River Surf Life Saving Club

No RSVP is necessary, please just come along to either session.



Trades & Services
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Do you live in the Colac Otway Shire or Surf Coast Shire and work in a Trade or Service Related Business?
Draftsman, Architect, Builder, Electrician, Plumber, Glazier, Tiler, Concretor, Scaffolder, Handyman, Gardener, Garden Designer, etc...
WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Colac Otway Shire is producing a **Trades and Services Directory** which will be distributed throughout the communities of Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River - over 800 households as well as being online.

The Directory will give locally based businesses the opportunity to be promoted to landowners in Wye River and Separation Creek who are involved in the rebuilding process.
There is NO COST to advertise, simply send through your business details to the email below.

Email your details to yvette.hill@colacotway.vic.gov.au

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA | Colac Otway SHIRE | FRRR



Construction, Traffic and Environment Management Plan

Thank you to everyone who provided input regarding the Construction, Traffic and Environment Management Plan.

Colac Otway Shire and Coffey developed the Plan to guide construction during the rebuild phase of renewal. Coffey will provide the final Plan by the end of May before going to Council for consideration by the end of June.

The feedback from the community was as follows: that the permitted hours of operation for power tools and loud machinery should reflect the EPA guidelines; that “No Parking” areas should be sign posted, and that traffic speed on local roads should be reduced to 20km/h in the construction area.



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

Retaining walls on Council land

Our contractor, Leprechaun Landscaping is finalising its geotechnical analysis in preparation of engineered design drawings for retaining walls above one metre. Approximately 21 walls will be rebuilt. The process is on track for construction to begin in June.

Harrington Park works update

Colac Otway Shire has started the reinstatement works at Harrington Park. We will be repairing the existing concrete pathway and installing timber handrails. The work is on track to be completed by the end of June.

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.

The condition of trees on Council controlled land will be monitored into the future so that changes in their health and structural integrity can be monitored and they can be managed in an appropriate way.

We have recently engaged our independent Arborist to survey these trees for a second time. Based on this report, we will prune and remove dead wood from 13 trees and remove an additional three trees on Council land. Five of the trees to be pruned are located within Harrington Park. Work will begin on 1 June and be completed by 15 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.





Discounted accommodation for fire-affected residents

On behalf of the Otway Coast Committee (OCC), we are pleased to advise that discounted accommodation at the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve is available for those members of the Wye River and Separation Creek communities who lost houses or who suffered damaged in the fires.

The OCC understand that this is a difficult and trying period for you and your families and we offer for those who need to meet with consultants and contractors during the planning and rebuild of your homes a discounted accommodation rate in Apollo Bay.

The OCC is able to offer the following rates in which have been discounted to assist and support you through your rebuilding process. The below offer is only available through the Off Peak season in which is effective of today's date and concludes at the end of November 2017 and excludes any Public Holiday's, Grand Final Weekend or School Holidays.

If you are looking to book some form of accommodation please keep in mind that throughout the Colac and District Football / Netball season, home games are played at the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve and to ensure a booking is secured for a cabin or site, we ask if you can please provide two (2) weeks' notice to avoid any disappointment.

In order for the Wye River and Separation Creek Communities to obtain this offer we would like you to quote the following code work (WyeSep) and proof of address at the building site or a rates notice will be required to obtain the below pricing. The Parks terms and conditions can be found on our website and Long-term bookings will be considered at the discretion of management upon time of inquiry.

Fees:

Accomm type	People	Rate	Extras
Cabins	2 adults	\$50	Extra Adult \$12.00 ea. Extra Children \$8.00 ea
Powered site	2 adults	\$30	Extra Adult \$12.00 ea. Extra Children \$8.00 ea.
Unpowered site	2 adults	\$15	Extra Adult \$12.00 ea. Extra Children \$8.00 ea.

If you have any queries regarding any of the above or wish to discuss your accommodation requirements, please do hesitate in contacting our Bookings team members on 5237 6577

Community Resilience Committee Report

The Community Resilience Committee (CRC) assists the recovery of the community from the impact of the bushfires and landslips. The recovery effort of the community in response to the devastating Wye River/Jamieson Track bushfires in December 2015 and high rainfall and landslips last spring has been enormous, and the ongoing work is just as significant. Community members play a vital function in ensuring that community views are actively integrated across all recovery activities.

COS Councillors: Meeting and tour of fire areas:

The CRC met with the COS Mayor and Councillors at Wye River on May 17. We explained the basis for the Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal Plan and our response to the Draft Council Plan. Discussion centred around the impact of tree loss and landslips, drainage issues, development of a Community Fire and Landslip Plan, community wellbeing, and advocacy for the Great Ocean Road and Walk.

We took them on a tour so they could see issues first hand. We thanked the councillors and COS staff for their time. The group then went to Kennett River. We will be following up with a submission and presentation to COS about the Draft Council Budget where it connects to the Renewal Plan.

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

Safety and Security in Fire Affected Areas

We met with the Apollo Bay Police on May 14. Some suggestions made for safety of property and community members were: use of lighting including motion sensors, locking of meter boxes with Powercor approved locks, CCTV. It was suggested that property owners alert their builders to the need to take care of materials as the number of rebuilds in progress increases. It was stressed that in an emergency the community should call 000 and not the Apollo Bay Police, and that regular patrols are operating.



Review of Emergency Management Relief and Recovery Systems: CRC Response

Emergency Management Victoria are reviewing disaster relief and recovery arrangements in Victoria. Communities were invited to respond to the discussion paper. The Wye River and Separation Creek Community Resilience Committee made some suggestions to EMV about how the proposed resilient recovery model could work.

These were:

1. Be guided by recognised community development principles. Basing development of the recovery model on communities recovering from a crisis will limit understanding of how communities usually work and thus limit the potential of proposed model. Development of the resilient recovery model needs to be based on how communities normally work, how members of the community usually organise their communal and individual lives, rather than when they are in crisis.

2. Fully understand what it means for communities to lead their recovery. Avoid the trap of thinking that because you have provided information to a community, assisted it to be involved in the work being undertaken, formed a long term dialogue with stakeholders, and even handed over policy development to stakeholders within a framework developed by the organisation, that you have provided the means for a community to make decisions. This is not the case - the organisation is still making the decisions and excluding the community. If a community is genuinely going to lead its own recovery the organisation must allow the community to make decisions, or to have its representatives actively involved in decision making about the issues that effect and/or impact on the community, its recovery and renewal.

3. Embed command and control responses in a community led model of resilient recovery. Community development principles should be used to guide:

- Development of the plan for bushfire and landslip management, which will then be in place to support a community-led response to any future disaster in the community
- Development of command and control policies and procedures covering the immediate response to a disaster.

For a full copy of the submission visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyeseep. It was based on the experience of our community of the Christmas 2015 bushfire.

Wye Winter Community Lunch July 9 SLSC

Arranged by the CRC Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group – see the advertisement in this newsletter. Don't miss this it was fabulous last year!

Potential New Walking Track

In collaboration with the Business and Tourism Work Group, Parks Victoria have funded a study of a proposed new rail walk to the west of Wye River.

Discounted Accommodation for Fire-Affected Community Members

The Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group have been working on this for some time. We are pleased that our partnership with DELWP and the OCC has led to accommodation in Apollo Bay for those visiting their properties. Details are at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyeseep

Workshop: Managing Revegetation and Controlling Weeds.

10.00am – 12.30 pm, Monday June 12.

Meet at the CFA

This event will take you through how to manage fire affected trees - tree stumps that are coppicing and standing trees with epicormic growth; understanding natural regeneration – let it go or manage it; knowing the difference between weeds and indigenous plants. The presenter will be Mike Robinson-Koss of Otway Greening. Please wear solid shoes, and a coat – and bring some basic gardening tools if you have them, for removing and identifying weeds. Organised by the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group and the Southern Otway Landcare Network. Fact sheets at: www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Environment



Epicormic growth



Planning Building & Fire Work Group

1. Construction Traffic & Environment Management Plan

The Work Group broadly endorsed Council's Plan, noting the primary objective is to facilitate the orderly re-establishment of fire damaged areas in Wye & Sep. This will be implemented through the use of planning and building permits to balance the needs of property owners, statutory authorities, project managers and building contractors along with the amenity of neighbouring properties. We highlighted the key issues of traffic management and parking, site security and local speed limits to be addressed in the final Plan.

2. Re-building stats – Wye & Sep

COS advises that 34 planning permits have been issued, including 28 under Council's streamlined review; 11 building permits have been issued for replacement dwellings; and 8 planning applications for replacement dwellings are in process.

3. Power restoration – Iluka Avenue

Property owners in Iluka Avenue have been notified of the final costings and options for underground cable or conventional poles & wires to enable Powercor to proceed with restoration of power supply to the precinct.

4. Community Based Bushfire Management Plan

The draft Plan prepared by DELWP/CFA is under preliminary review.

Contact us: See us at the Wye River General Store on Sunday June 4th 11.00-12.00 and Sunday June 11th 1.30 – 2.30. Email us at crcwyesepcommunityreps@gmail.com.

Speak to us around town – the Community Representatives on the CRC are Diane Sisely, Joanne Tyler, Paul Greene, Mark Stokes, Roy Moriarty, Andrew Hack, Geoff Quinn, Debra Hocking and Ian Angus. The change to a community driven CRC is part of the Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal Plan and was agreed at community meetings in Melbourne and Wye River, via consultation through WyeSep Connect, and endorsed by all the major community associations and the Emergency Leadership Group.

Revegetation Support Program

In March 2017, Minister Neville announced a revegetation support program to run over three years to assist fire-affected properties in Wye River and Separation Creek.

The program is funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and will be delivered by the Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN). It is supported by the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape work-group, which is a working group of the Community Resilience Committee.

The process for providing this support to the ongoing revegetation efforts of the Wye River and Separation Creek communities has now been determined and Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now being sought. The first EOI process closes on Friday 4 August.

To access an online Expression of Interest form or to download a PDF of the form, please visit: <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Revegetation-Support-Program>

More details about the program and its rollout are provided below.

Am I eligible?

All fire-affected properties in Wye River and Separation Creek are eligible to receive plants through the revegetation support program.

What will be delivered as part of the revegetation support program?

In total, the revegetation support program will provide approximately 7,500 native plants over three years. It is estimated that this will work out to be approximately 40 plants per fire-affected property, depending on individual needs and environmental conditions. The plants will be from locally sourced seed at SOLN's nursery in the Otway region. Propagating the plants locally ensures that the best possible stock is offered for the program in the most cost effective manner.

When can I get plants?

The majority of plants will be provided in winter from 2018-2020. If your home is rebuilt or repaired, and you wish to receive plants now, please indicate this in your EOI and we will make every effort to source plants from available stock. However, this supply is limited so unless you really need to plant immediately we suggest planting in Winter 2018



when a larger range of locally propagated plants will be available.

How do I get my plants?

To obtain plants the first step is to complete the EOI form. The information provided will help SOLN to determine the specific needs of each property. The key steps in the process are outlined below:

Autumn 2017: Expressions of Interest are now open and will close on Friday, 4 August 2017.

Note: The expression of interest process will open again next year, but it would assist our planning if you submit an EOI now even if you won't be ready to landscape for a few years.

Spring 2017: SOLN will be available to conduct on-site visits

Winter 2018: First of year of locally propagated plants ready for winter planting. Winter planting is important in coastal environments to support healthy establishment and growth.

While it's best to begin landscaping once the rebuilding process is complete, we understand that not everyone has decided if or when they will rebuild. Regardless of your exact situation we suggest that you complete an EOI form and then SOLN will contact you to determine the best revegetation program for your block.

It is important to note that the EOI process will be open in autumn each year until the conclusion of the revegetation support program. If you wish to submit an EOI this year but you do not want to receive your plants until later in the program, you can specify this in your form.

What plants will be available?

The species of plants available through the revegetation support program will be selected from the *Landscaping Your Coastal Garden for Bushfire* booklet. There will also be native canopy species available. Once you have completed the EOI, SOLN will make contact and discuss your needs in greater detail and answer any questions you have about the plants available. The booklet can be accessed at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Environment

Where can I get further information?

If you are unsure about your eligibility or would like to discuss any concerns about the revegetation support program, please contact Tegan Brown, Program Coordinator – Fire Recovery at Tegan.brown@delwp.vic.gov.au.

If you would like more information in relation to the EOI process, availability of plants and timing or what is appropriate for your property, please contact Libby Riches, Manager or the Southern Otway Landcare Network at libby.landcare@soln.org.

VicRoads May update

Wye River hillside stabilisation

Soil nailing has started on the Paddy's Path hillside at Wye River on the Great Ocean Road.

Soil nailing is part of the stabilisation works on the hillside after a major landslide in September 2016. Soil nailing follows the construction of a 75m three-metre-tall concrete and gabian rock wall along the iconic tourist road and a second 36m-long concrete retaining wall above the landslide zone further up the hill.

Two three-man mobile tripod rigs will be suspended from anchor points above the Paddy's Path walking trail that links Wye River and Separation Creek. Vegetation was removed from the work area last week to enable the tripod rigs to freely abseil across the slope.

The soil nailing will involve the drilling of 300 bores, each up to 8m deep, and the insertion of steel rods anchored into the hillside with a ceramic mix. Sheets of steel mesh will then be fastened to the rod heads to further lock down the hillside. Erosion control matting will be used on exposed surface areas.

Soil nailing is expected to be completed mid July. The soil nailing rigs will operate Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 5pm and Saturdays 7.30am to 1pm. This includes time for daily set-up and pack-down (around 45 minutes) and to relocate the rigs on the site. VicRoads and its Alliance partner Fulton Hogan aim to rapidly progress these works before the onset of winter. The soil nailing process will generate some noise. If you have any concerns please contact: greatoceanroad@roads.vic.gov.au

Paddy's Path update

VicRoads engineers, geotechnical experts and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning have recently determined that Paddy's Path can be restored on its original lower alignment. This alignment had suffered significant damage in the landslide. The final design of the path and bridging solution is still to be finalised. We will update you as more information becomes available.