

# **Annual Report**

## **Wye Sep Kennett Renewal Association**

**03 March 2019**

### **Activities**

Over the last 12 months there have been very many meetings between WSKRA and members of the Resettlement Leadership Team, Parks Victoria, DELWP staff, Sarah Henderson MP, Colac Otway Shire Staff and VicRoads staff

A very well attended April 2018 forum was organized with the Great Ocean Road Taskforce, leading to community input into its findings. A birdwatching event In December was funded through DHHS funds administered by Colac Otway Shire and a Winter Community Lunch was funded by Regional Development Victoria. These were both arranged by WSKRA Workgroups

Minister Neville visited Wye River in September to open the extension to the CFA Station and announce funding and agreement on Renewal Plan items

- Wye River to Jamieson River walk
- Feasibility Study for linked walks from Torquay to Apollo Bay.

We attended the May Colac Otway Shire Council Meeting to ask questions about maintenance of emergency access between Wye River and Separation Creek and associated drainage work. We also successfully lobbied for full funding of the drainage works.

The Flora, Fauna and Beachscape; and Community Connection and Wellbeing Workgroups continued to meet.

### **Renewal Plan Outcomes**

In February 2019 the largest ever Wye/Sep/Kennett combined community meeting was

attended by Minister Neville, the Resettlement Leadership Team, many representatives of government agencies, state and local government and very many community members.

The extremely positive meeting was presented with outcomes of the Community Renewal Plan (also attached). Many community members symbolically participated in the reinstatement of Paddy's Plaque on Paddy's Path.

The Renewal Plan was created for and by the community by WSKRA (and its predecessor CRC) and virtually all the items have been achieved, in close collaboration with government, government agencies, and Colac Otway Shire.

Documents attached show Renewal Plan outcomes achieved (the majority), and agencies responsible for the small number still being worked on.

## **Conclusion**

It has been a very challenging 3 years for Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River, but the outcomes of the plan show the recovery outcomes that can be achieved when genuinely collaborative and trusting relationships are built between community and government following a natural disaster. This is a model for future disaster impacted communities.

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Interim Recovery Group, prior to the establishment of the Community Resilience Committee which became WSKRA.

The work of WSKRA is now complete, and we will dissolve effective March 7.

Joanne Tyler & Paul Greene

Co-Chairs

WSKRA