

# Community newsletter – flood recovery update

Issue 2 | 30 January 2026

## Clean-up and repairs: Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River



The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) has completed the clean-up of Wye River beach, including sand nourishment and removal of large debris and vehicles.

Timber debris and hazards are now being removed from inside the Wye River Big 4 Caravan Park.

Contractors have been mobilised for the Separation Creek Beach clean-up, which will start as soon as possible.

Please stay clear of machinery working on the beaches and carpark at Separation Creek.

GORCAPA staff are meeting with members of the Wye River Separation Creek Community Association to identify issues and opportunities for rebuilding the Wye River walk.

Once a draft plan has been developed, GORCAPA will check in with the local community for feedback.

Playground risk assessments have also been booked in, with an aim to re-open as soon as possible.

GORCAPA understands the importance of the playground to the local community and visitors to the area.

Colac Otway Shire Council staff and contractors will be undertaking remedial works of roads and drains in the Kennett River area early next week.

Inspections continue to monitor road conditions and areas prone to possible landslips along the coast.

Authorities are working with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to manage potential cultural impacts as clean up and repair works are planned and completed.

## Clean-up and repairs: Lorne and Cumberland River



Vehicles have been removed from the Cumberland River beach and GORCAPA staff are supporting the owners of Cumberland River Caravan Park with clean-up efforts.

The aim is to have the park ready to re-open as soon as possible.

Clean-up works are ongoing at Lorne Erskine Park Caravan Park, but all other GORCAPA-managed caravan parks in Lorne and along the Great Ocean Road are open.

Surf Coast Shire Council has been conducting inspections in flood-impacted areas around Erskine River to identify drainage systems in need of clearing.

Council is also assessing open drains along roadsides and identifying where works are needed to clean sediment and materials that have washed into these drains.

All Council-managed trees along the Erskine River have been assessed for risk and staff are working with engineers to assess the Allen Vale Road bridge and landslip on Erskine Falls Road.

## Checking in on flood-impacted holiday makers

This week Council staff have made more than 100 calls to flood impacted people and families who registered through Crisisworks in the wake of the floods.

Most were staying in caravan parks inundated by flood waters.

While some have reported that they are doing well, there are still many people who are understandably suffering emotionally.

There are also people struggling with the financial impacts, having lost valuable possessions such as cars and caravans.

Sadly, some have reported property losses that hold significant sentimental value and can't be replaced.

The overwhelming message from those caught up in the floods has been of gratitude to the first responders and locals who so quickly rallied to help however they could.

People have been amazed by the generosity of our coastal communities.

Those in need of psychological support have been referred to the Victorian Council of Churches

Emergencies Ministry, which specialises in disaster support and care.

They can be contacted on (03) 7037 6010.

## Dynamic conditions bring continued challenges for coastal communities



The bushfires in the Otways and extreme fire risk days continue to bring challenges for our local communities, compounding the impacts of flooding.

We urge all residents and visitors to be aware of local conditions and adhere to emergency warnings on high risk days.

Businesses in towns along the coast have suffered significant revenue loss, so when conditions are appropriate, we strongly encourage you to show your support by visiting the Great Ocean Road.

Lorne, Apollo Bay and the places in between are beautiful spots to spend time year-round.

Please consider a visit or holiday during the remainder of summer or at any time throughout the year.

## Waste service impacts

Waste services have suffered some interruptions during the peak fire threat of the past few days, particularly in areas within Colac Otway Shire.

As more roads open up, and with the easing of restrictions, normal services will resume as soon as possible.

Please contact Colac Otway Shire Council on 52329400 if you have any questions or issues in relation to your waste services.

## Community-led fundraising efforts

A GoFundMe page has been set up by the community to support the managers of the Cumberland River Holiday Park.

The family lives on site and suffered flooding to their home.

Immediate funds will help them replace necessary basics they lost.

To contribute, visit [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com) and search 'Donate to help Mary and Ram after the flood'.

## Still need help?

If you need assistance after being impacted by flooding, please contact your local council (or GORCAPA for matters related to foreshore reserves).

We will seek to assist or put you in contact with the correct authority.

Colac Otway Shire: Ph 5232 9400  
Surf Coast Shire: Ph 5261 0600  
GORCAPA: Ph 1300 736 533

## Look after your mental wellbeing

Another reminder to take care of your own mental health after caring for others during an emergency event such as this.

It's natural for emotions to sneak up on us after a few days or weeks, and sometimes these experiences can impact how we feel and function.

There are many local providers you can turn to if you need mental health support or would like someone to talk to:

- Barwon Health Mental Health - Colac: Ph 1300 763 254 (business hours) or 1300 094 187 (after hours)
- Colac Area Health Counselling Services: Ph 5232 5100
- Step Thru Care Geelong Otway: Ph 8691 5480
- Medicare Mental Health: Ph 1800 595 212
- headspace Colac: Ph 5232 5520
- Great Ocean Road Health: Ph 5289 4300 (Lorne); 5237 8500 (Apollo Bay)
- Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative: Ph 5277 004

A list of telephone and online services is on the Department of Health website: [health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-services/telephone-and-online-services](https://health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-services/telephone-and-online-services).

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For further information and updates, visit [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lorneflood](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lorneflood)  
[colacotway.vic.gov.au/emergency-event](https://colacotway.vic.gov.au/emergency-event)  
[colacotway.vic.gov.au/flood-FAQs](https://colacotway.vic.gov.au/flood-FAQs)