



Newsletter

Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal

19 FEBRUARY 2018

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

Temporary closure of Iluka Extension

As you may be aware, on 20 December 2017 Colac Otway Shire temporarily closed access to Iluka Extension from Iluka Avenue, due to a landslide which undermined the road. Council has started remediation works, and has engaged a geotechnical expert who will begin surveys next week. This survey will feed in to the stabilisation works designs. At this stage, the road is likely to remain closed until April.

Council will provide regular progress updates on the WyeSep Facebook page and at:

www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyesepp

We have written directly to property owners who are undertaking housing construction on Iluka Avenue and Durimbil Avenue.

Thank you for your patience during these works. If you have any questions, please contact Boyd Williams at Colac Otway Shire on 52329400.



Construction of extra retaining walls

From June to August 2017 Colac Otway Shire constructed 21 retaining walls across Wye River and Separation Creek. The new walls replaced retaining walls located within the Council road reserve that were damaged in the bushfire. Council's contractor, Leprechaun Landscaping, undertook the works, using non-combustible materials including steel I-beams and reinforced concrete sleepers for new structures to increase their resilience to future fire events.

Council has now identified an additional six locations where retaining walls need to be constructed. Geotechnical engineers are conducting samples over the next few weeks to feed into the design process.

All affected property owners will be contacted individually before the commencement of any works. Minimal traffic management will be required during the construction period. Certain roads may need to be closed at times, and if so, we will inform the community ahead of these closures.

We will advise the community in the lead-up to construction commencing.





Stormwater Management System

The project is in the tender process, with works separated into three contracts: 1) pits and pipes, 2) table drains, driveway culverts and ancillary works, and 3) revegetation and reinstatement. Council received five tenders for Contracts one and two and we are currently reviewing them.

Council expects construction to commence approximately at the end of March. This revised schedule sees construction completed by the end of 2018.

Preparation letters have been sent to all property owners in Wye River and Separation Creek.

The community will be informed on the project's progress via a project newsheet, the WyeSep webpage and Facebook.

Please contact Boyd Williams at Council on 52329400 if you have any questions.

Stanway Drive remediation works update

Remediation works at Stanway Drive will be undertaken on the high and low side embankment and creek bank. Council will also undertake drainage works on the high side embankment, as well as road sealing.

The design is complete and Council has gone out to tender. The tender period closes on 7 March.

Construction is scheduled to begin after Easter and set for completion by the end of June 2018.



Rebuilding progress update

Colac Otway Shire has now issued 48 planning permits for replacements houses under the streamlined controls together with six pre-existing permits, which allow rebuilding, a total of 55 approvals. This equates to 50 per cent of destroyed homes.

In addition, 10 planning applications for replacement houses are currently being processed. When all current planning permit applications for replacement dwellings are determined there will be 64 of the 109 destroyed dwelling with a planning permit that allows rebuilding. That's 58 per cent of fire-affected dwellings.

Given the difficult and complex regulatory processes, this is a credit to property owners.



Bushfire bunker permit process

If a landowner wants to install a private bushfire bunker/shelter with a new dwelling, a condition is included on the permit requiring the owner to enter into a legal agreement under Section 173 of the Planning & Environment Act, to ensure that it remains operational and is maintained into the future.

This is a State Government requirement that is reflected in our local decision-making. Council engages the services of Harwood Andrews Solicitors to review these legal agreements to ensure they are appropriately worded, prior to signing and lodgement on the property title.

A template agreement is available for landowners to use if they choose to have their own solicitor prepare the agreement, however Council still needs



to engage solicitors to review draft agreements submitted.

The landowner/permit applicant pays all legal costs incurred by Council. It is usually cheaper for landowners to have Council's solicitor prepare the agreement from the outset, as it avoids the double up of paying a separate solicitor as well.

Harwood Andrews have an agreed capped fee of \$1,000 for a circumstance where they prepare and review the agreement, which they have reduced to a cap of \$700 for properties affected by the bushfire.

For information on S173 agreements relating to rebuilding:

<http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Planning-building/Building-in-WyeSep-bushfire-affected-areas/Step-4-Comply-with-planning-permit-conditions#section-8>

Fire Danger Period and Fire Prevention Program

A reminder that Colac Otway Shire is still in the Fire Danger Period (FDP) – which was declared by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in early December. The FDP is not expected to finish until April.

Council's Fire Prevention Inspections are continuing and residents and property owners need to make sure they maintain their properties to the prescribed standard throughout this period.

More information on the FDP and applications to undertake burning-off during the FDP can be found at <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/Burning-off>.

Further information regarding fire planning and preparations can be found at <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/Getting-fire-ready>.

If you have any further questions please call Council's Fire Awareness Officer, Tristan Crews on 5232 9400.



Revegetation Support Program - EOI opening for 2018

The Wye River and Separation Creek Revegetation Support Program is contributing to community recovery by supporting the efforts of landholders to revegetate their fire-affected properties. Over the life of the program some 7500 native plants will be given to the community for planting on private land.

This program is funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and is being delivered by the Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN). It is also supported by the community-led Flora, Fauna and Beachscape work-group.



The program will be running for several years to ensure it works in with the different stages of recovery and rebuild that are occurring across the community. Expressions of Interest will open for 2018 on Monday, 19 February.

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

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.

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 2018: Expressions of Interest will open on Monday, 19 February.

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 couple of years.

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

Spring 2018: Property visits and follow up from the Southern Otway Landcare Network.

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 late summer 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?

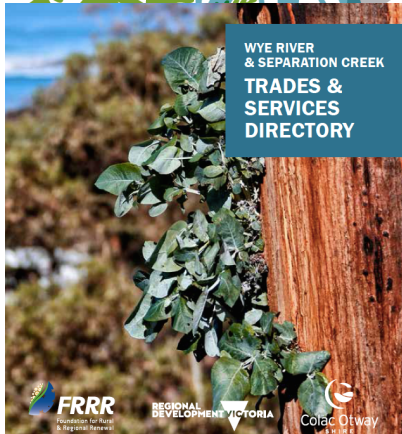
If you would like more information in relation to the EOI process, availability of plants and timing or what is appropriate for you, property, please contact Libby Riches, Manager or the Southern Otway Landcare Network at libby.landcare@soln.org.



Trades and Services Directory

The Trades and Services Directory is complete and is being delivered to all property owners of Wye River Separation Creek and Kennett River. It was also sent through Bushfire Recovery Email. Copies are also available locally at the General Store and an electronically for download on the website homepage:

www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect



WSKRA Inc. (Community Resilience Committee) Update

The CRC transitioned to WSKRA, an independent incorporated community association, in September last year.

Recent activity has been around finalisation of the 2018-9 Renewal Plan (expected to be signed off by the relevant agencies in March) and investigation of funding sources for a feasibility study to create a walk from Torquay to Apollo Bay, to support sustainable tourism in our area and re-establishment of holiday rental activity.

We are awaiting formal notification of the outcome of the \$3.4 million Parks Victoria allocation for renewal of the fire-affected areas, following our submission on behalf of the community.

Current members wishing to vote for office bearers and community representatives are invited to attend the WSKRA AGM, to be held on Sunday 25 February at 10.30am in the CFA meeting room.

Proxy forms are available at:

www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/WSKRA-Inc.Community-Resilience-Committee

For further details email us at wskrasn@gmail.com

VicRoads update

New culverts

VicRoads is replacing 23 under-road culverts on the Great Ocean Road between Kennett River and Wye River.

The new culverts will be a larger diameter with new drainage pits to more efficiently clear run-off water along the edge of the tourist road.

Cliff faces

VicRoads crews have begun work on nine cliff-face sites along the Great Ocean Road between Cumberland River and Mt Defiance.

Devegetation will take eight to 10 weeks to complete. One lane of the Great Ocean Road will be closed during work hours. Traffic management will be in place.

This preparation work involves riggers removing vegetation and loose rocks in preparation for the installation of steel rock anchors, which hold the steel-mesh rock-fall netting.

Soil nailing

Work has resumed on the removal of vegetation and loose material on the lower hillside, which runs along the Great Ocean Road between Wye River and Separation Creek.

This is in preparation for soil nailing which is scheduled to begin in early March.

This project is a part of continuing stabilisation of the hillside below Paddy's Path, the pedestrian link between the two coastal towns.

A permanent lane closure will be in place for the next few months.

Paddy's Path



Holidaymakers enjoy the temporary reopening of Paddy's Path during the summer holidays.

Now soil-nailing works have resumed along the Great Ocean Road at Wye River, Paddy's Path has been closed to pedestrians Monday to Friday.

The path will reopen to the public each Friday at 4.30pm and close Mondays at 7.30am.

Pedestrians wishing to move between the two townships Monday to Friday are advised to seek an alternative safe walking route.



Retaining wall

VicRoads will install another retaining wall along the ocean side of the Great Ocean Road, on the western edge of Wye River.

This will be the 10th ocean-side retaining wall to be constructed since flooding rains undermined sections of the Great Ocean Road in September 2016.

The 47m-long concrete retaining wall will be 4.5m tall in sections. Work begins early March and will take about 11 weeks to complete.

One lane of the road will be closed during construction. Traffic lights will operate at night and traffic management during the day.

Guardrail

Work has resumed this week on repairing sections of existing guardrail and installing lengths of new rail over various distances, totalling about one kilometre, between Kennett River and Jamieson River. There will be minor interruptions to traffic at these work sites.

Grey River



The six 40-tonne beams being lifted into place at Grey River in January.

Work is progressing on construction of a new bridge at Grey River on the Great Ocean Road, 20km east of Apollo Bay.

Six 25m-long concrete beams, each weighing 40 tonnes, were transported down the Great Ocean Road and lifted into place by crane in January.

The concrete bridge deck has since been poured and work has begun on building the new approaches to each end of the bridge. One lane of the Great Ocean Road is temporarily closed. Traffic management is in place.