



# Newsletter

## Wye River and Separation Creek Renewal

28 JULY 2017

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

### Retaining walls: stage three construction starting

The construction of 21 retaining walls across Wye River and Separation Creek is continuing well. Stage three has commenced and will be completed by approximately mid August.

The Stage three schedule comprises retaining walls within the road reserve adjacent to the following properties: 2 Dunoon Avenue, Wye River, 3 Dunoon Avenue, Wye River, 9 Dunoon Avenue, Wye River. Owners of these properties have all been notified in person.

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



A new retaining wall in Mitchell Grove, Separation Creek

### Stormwater reticulation design community drop-in sessions

Cardno are close to completing the concept design, which will be completed in early August. We will hold community drop-in sessions for public comment on these designs in Wye River and in Melbourne, before detailed designs are produced in September. All property owners and residents welcome.

The concept designs will be put on the Wyesepp Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/wyeseppconnect](https://www.facebook.com/wyeseppconnect) and the website [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyesepp](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/wyesepp) at least a week before the first drop in session.

- 29 August Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club  
4pm to 6.30pm with a presentation of plans between 4.15pm and 5.30pm
- 31 August Cardno Office – Level 4,  
501 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
5pm til 7pm with a presentation of plans at 5.15pm and 6pm

### Stanway Drive landslip remediation works

An extensive detailed geotechnical investigation has been undertaken to establish the site conditions and level of any potential rock so that design options for the remediation of landslip areas could be considered.

It was identified that the site sits within a larger extensive landslide. Currently options are being considered based upon the founding conditions, soil types and strengths, and groundwater geometry.

Any works must take into account the environmental sensitivity of work directly adjacent to the creek.

### Water tank replacement

It was recently identified that there is a leak in the existing water tank at the intersection of Karingal Drive and Koonya Avenue used for fire fighting purposes. Quotes are currently being sought for the replacement of the tank.



Water tank at Karingal Drive

## Onsite drainage survey

Colac Otway Shire officers will be conducting an onsite drainage survey in Wye River and Separation Creek between the 25 July and 11 August.

As part of this survey we may need to enter private properties. Our officers will attempt to notify all property owners before conducting any inspections on private land. Survey work will only take place between 9 and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



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

Under the newly approved Construction, Traffic and Environment Management Plan, 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 Mobile 0427 092 254 or [Damien.burton@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:Damien.burton@colacotway.vic.gov.au) 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.

## Grant Application for Fire Resilient Demonstration Garden in Wye River Successful

We are pleased to announce that the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has awarded a Coastal Small Grant to assist with the development of a garden to demonstrate fire-resistant landscaping and planting practices in Wye River.

The community response to the proposed garden has been extremely positive, and the Southern Otway Landcare Network is excited to be managing the project, with the support of the Flora, Fauna and Beachscape Work Group and Colac Otway Shire Council.

An open consultation process will commence in late spring this year to ensure that the whole community can contribute design ideas and suggest aspects they would like to see included.





For inspiration and to ensure you understand fire resilience in garden landscaping, please refer to the *Landscaping Your Coastal Garden for Bushfire* booklet, available at: <http://bit.ly/2u09z67>

More information about how you can share your ideas will be available in the coming months. Ongoing workshops and information sessions on weed control and vegetation management will also be held over the coming year to assist community efforts to build resilience for the future.

## Community Lunch

On Sunday 9 July the Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group hosted a wonderful community lunch at the Wye River SLSC.

Thankfully the weather was kind and around 60 people from the community came and enjoyed lunch, a spectacular view and Louey Hesterman & Friends playing delightful Irish music.

Children also had a great time with paint and plaster and created some amazing take home crafts.



A special thank you to the Michelle and Diana from the Firefoxes Group. These amazing women come from the communities devastated by the Black Saturday Bushfire, it was amazing to have the opportunity to share stories with them and gain insight into their projects and community recovery activities.



*Good times at the winter community lunch*



## Wye Winter Photography Competition



Don't forget - post your WINTRY photos of the region on Facebook or Instagram - **#wyewinter** or **#wyelove**.

The Ocean and Otways are stunning in winter - be in the running for one of the prizes, which will be

announced on Melbourne Cup Weekend.

No entry fee and open to all ages - so get involved, post as many photos as you want, spread the word why you love Wye.

### Fee waivers

Council continues to waive 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, however this funding has concluded 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.

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.

## Colac Otway Shire Australia Day Awards

The Australia Day 2018 Nominations for Colac are open!

Do you know someone who makes a significant contribution to the Colac Otway Shire community? Nominate them now. Entries close on Friday 18 August 2017.

The 2018 Australia Day Celebrations will be held in Colac.

Please find the Nomination Form, Guidelines and supporting letter at:

<http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Recreation-tourism/Festivals-events/Australia-Day-Celebrations>

## Rebuilding progress update

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

Six planning applications for replacement houses are currently being processed. When all current planning permit applications for replacement dwellings are determined there will be 45 of the 109 destroyed dwellings with a planning permit that allows rebuilding.



*Australia Day 2015 Colac Children's Parade*





## CFA building extension

Building company A.A Turner has been awarded the contract to extend the Wye River CFA station, which will include new offices, amenities, a kitchen, meeting room and storerooms.

Construction work began on 17 July and will be finished at the end of November this year. Builder Alan Turner has a beach house in Morley Avenue, Wye River.

“We were one of the fortunate homeowners that apart from the 2015 Christmas fires burning right up to our front door, our beach house was saved by the Wye River and Apollo Bay CFA boys,” said Alan.

“We are ever grateful to these heroes and are honoured that we get a chance to deliver a great addition to the current CFA building.”

“We look forward to working with the captain of the Wye River CFA in Roy and his team of heroes to deliver a great new facility and addition to the CFA station.”

“We intend to use as many locals as we can for this development,” said Alan.



*Isometric elevations of the new Wye River CFA building*

## Community Resilience Committee Report

### CRC meeting 28 July

The next Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River CRC meeting will be held in Wye River Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> July. Items on the agenda include

- Weed and hazardous tree control along Paddy's Path
- Long-term management of plants growing through retaining mesh
- Zoning of the former Donleavy Fitzpatrick estate
- Outcome of the independent evaluation of the recovery phase of the Wye River and Separation Creek bushfires
- Development of a Community Fire Prevention and Management Plan
- Potential for Parks Victoria to support new/future Renewal Plan activities
- Next community-wide meeting
- Process for developing the 2018/19 Renewal Plan.

If you wish to discuss any of these, or other, issues before or after the meeting with a member of the CRC just drop us a line at [crcwyesepcommunityreps@gmail.com](mailto:crcwyesepcommunityreps@gmail.com)

### Mid-Winter Community Lunch

The CRC Mid-Winter Community lunch was held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the surf club.

Around 60 people enjoyed one another's company, ate good food and listened to melodious Irish ballads.

Two representatives from Firefoxes Australia, a group for women which evolved following the Black Saturday Fires of 2009, also participated in the lunch and spoke to people about their work and shared what they have learnt from their recovery and renewal journey.

The lunch was a great opportunity for people to catch up with one another, to compare notes and swap ideas; whether they were about to start repairs or rebuilding or were simply watching others do so.



## CRC Report continued

### Planning Building & Fire Update

#### Council Rates

To alleviate financial hardship, Council waived all municipal rates and charges levied for the 2015-2016 financial year for all developed Wye River & Separation Creek properties identified as destroyed in the December 2015 fires.

Council also deferred routine debt recovery action for property owners in Wye River and Separation Creek with rates arrears until 1 March 2017.

However, from June 2017, recovery action will be re-instituted where full payment **or a payment arrangement** has not been made.

#### Wye River & Separation Creek Construction, Traffic & Environment Management Plan (CTEMP)

As property owners undertake post-fire reconstruction, CTEMP addresses

- The amenity of residents and visitors to the area
- Traffic management
- Mitigation of environmental factors

The Plan has been formally adopted by Council and provides guidance on meeting the planning approval requirements. It will be funded from the \$5.4 million fund provided by the Victorian Government via DEWLP to assist in the bushfire recovery efforts at Wye River and Separation Creek.

### 2016/17 Colac Otway Shire Budget

Council's Budget features the following key items:

- Lowest rate rise in Shire's history
- Overall average rate increase of 0.63%
- Reduction in rates for most rural ratepayers
- Delivery of one of Council's largest ever capital programs

Capital works and other projects include:

- Disaster Recovery (Flood & Bushfire) \$3.2 million
- Sealed Road Reconstruction program \$2.7 million
- Colac CBD Revitalisation Project \$1.9 million
- Unsealed Road Resheet program \$1.4 million
- Building Renewal Program \$1 million
- Local roads reseal program \$900,000
- Road improvement program \$750,000

Total capital works program \$21.6 million

### Power Restoration Projects

Following extensive community consultation:

- Powercor will proceed with the installation of conventional poles & wires for Bass Avenue properties
- Property owners in Iluka Avenue have collectively agreed to meet the additional cost of underground cable

### Flora Fauna and Beachscape

The work group has been monitoring uptake of the private property [Revegetation Support Program](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Revegetation-Support-Program) (<http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergencies/WyeSep-Connect/Revegetation-Support-Program>). Expressions of interest for the first round close on August 4.

On July 7 we organised for people to visit the slope on the Separation Creek end of Paddy's Path to consider options to replace sub-standard steps.

A temporary solution will be installed to manage erosion in the Wye River Estuary beside the Foreshore Caravan Park. Permanent work will be undertaken after the Wye River Bridge is replaced, expected to be in 3-5 years

### Business and Tourism

We are waiting on the result of a grant application for a feasibility study to evaluate extension of the Great Ocean Walk from Apollo Bay to Torquay.





## Vic Roads update July 2017

### Great Ocean Road – temporary lane closure from July 19.

VicRoads advises drivers that the Great Ocean Road has been reduced to one lane on an 80-metre section between Wye River and Kennett River due to a minor landslide.

The landslide, on the ocean side of the road about six kilometres west of Wye River, was caused by heavy rain and natural erosion.

The Great Ocean Road remains open to traffic but has been reduced to one lane and is being managed by traffic signals. Drivers will experience minor delays. The speed limit through this section has been reduced to 40kmh.

The lane closure will be in place for between four and six weeks while VicRoads installs a concrete and steel retaining wall.

VicRoads Regional Director Mark Koliba said the location was in an area where extensive stabilisation works were already taking place.

“Safety is our number one priority which is why we’ll construct a retaining wall here as a matter of urgency,” he said.

Mr Koliba said the retaining wall would be about 30 metres long and up to five metres high. The affected area of road has been closed with concrete barriers. VicRoads continues to monitor a priority list of sites along the Great Ocean Road as it progresses its stabilisation works.



*The landslide, on the ocean side of the road about six kilometres west of Wye River*

### Wye River pedestrian works

Work on the Wye River township improvements was completed last week.

The four-week project included new kerb and channel, a pedestrian refuge on the Great Ocean Road, new bus stop platform, paths, landscaping and line marking for car parking spaces.

The pedestrian refuge will help pedestrians cross between foreshore car parking and the surf beach to the town’s facilities at this popular holiday destination.

The islands have been located between the general store and the main access point to the beach across the road.

A mountable traffic island was built at the nearby Wongara Drive intersection and gravel-parking bays in Morley Avenue have been sealed.

The \$130,000 project delivers on a community request to create a safer beach and township pedestrian link across the Great Ocean Road.

About 100 indigenous grasses have been planted in the garden beds. A selection of more decorative plants will follow shortly.

The surrounding Great Ocean Road intersection has been repaired, asphalted and line marked.

A further 135m of kerb, channel and stormwater drainage is also being installed along the Great Ocean Road behind the foreshore reserve caravan park.

Traffic management was in place during the works. The Great Ocean Road remained open during the project.

VicRoads regional director Mark Koliba said VicRoads had focused heavily on stabilisation works at Wye River to make the Great Ocean Road safer and was now delighted to be able to give the Wye River community a safe point to cross between the surf beach and shops.

“Additional designated parking bays, a pedestrian refuge, sealed paths and kerb and channelling will give this busy pedestrian hub a more organised structure that helps guide people and traffic safely around the cafe, hotel, playground, camping and beach precinct.





“The community asked for these facilities and VicRoads is very pleased to have now delivered significant safety improvements to one of the Great Ocean Road’s most popular tourist destinations.”



*The township improvements at Wye River*

### **Soil nailing at Wye River**

Soil nailing the hillside across the landslide zone at Paddy’s Path has made great progress as winter weather along this section of the Great Ocean Road remains stable.

The landslide section of the hillside is expected to be completed next week. A second section of the hillside below three Iluka Avenue properties, further east of the township, is also about to be soil nailed with steel rods 4-8m long.

Once soil nailing is complete, the landslide section of the hillside will be locked down with steel netting and environmental matting. All soil nail areas will be revegetated with indigenous plants.

The entire soil-nailing project is scheduled for completion, weather permitting, by the end of July.

Work has also begun on building a bridge, on steel piers, across the landslide zone to reinstate Paddy’s Path, the pedestrian link between Wye River and Separation Creek.

We greatly appreciate the understanding and patience of the entire township as these emergency works progress.



*Soil nailing the Paddy’s Path hillside at Wye River*

### **Stabilising the road**

More than 160 landslides occurred along the length of the Great Ocean Road during major storms in late 2016.

VicRoads has been progressively repairing and stabilising hillsides that washed onto the tourist road.

A 50m-long gabion rock wall, containing light basalt rock from Colac, is being constructed 500m west of Separation Creek to protect the Great Ocean Road from the impact of landslides.

Crews also have been smoothing out, hydro-seeding, nailing and netting more than a dozen sites between Wye River and Kennett River.

They will next focus on another dozen sites between Apollo Bay and Lorne and 30 sites between Separation Creek and Jamieson Creek.



*Netting unstable hillsides west of Wye River.*





### **Cape Patton Lookout**

Work is about to begin on installing rock fall netting on the Great Ocean Road at Cape Patton Lookout.

The \$1.2 million project to stabilise six cliff faces is a part of the State Government's \$53 million grant to protect the Great Ocean Road from environmental impacts.

Work crews will begin removing vegetation on the cliff face in mid July in preparation for the installation of steel mesh netting which will be draped 80m around the cliff to prevent rocks and debris falling onto the tourist road.

The Cape Patton lookout will be closed to traffic for three weeks during the project. One lane of the Great Ocean Road will also be closed with traffic management in place.

The Cape Paton project is the sixth cliff face along this section of the Great Ocean Road to be treated with rock fall netting. Five other sites west of Lorne and Wye River are underway.

VicRoads appreciates feedback and comments from the community. Please have your say at [greatoceanroad@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:greatoceanroad@roads.vic.gov.au)



*Stabilising the cliff face just west of Lorne in preparation for installing rock fall netting.*