

Wye River trials car park limits

by Lachlan Cowlshaw

Parking restrictions will come into force at Wye River later this month as the town prepares for an influx of summer tourists.

Colac Otway Shire Council will trial four-hour parking restrictions between 9am and 5pm along the foreshore.

Wye River Separation Creek Progress Association had been working with the council to find a solution to peak season park-

ing problems at Wye River.

Association president Rex Brown said people had parked their cars at foreshore locations for "weeks on end" in past seasons.

"The shire are saying they will do this as a trial and we think that's a very good idea," he said.

"We are a bit disappointed that it's taken two years of representation from us for them to come good but we're feeling very optimistic now that they're mak-

ing some real efforts."

The council placed a yellow line along part of Morley Avenue last year to prevent parking on both sides of the road.

Council chief Sue Wilkinson said more work was necessary to build on last year's trial.

"We know some people are parking near the beach and the shops for days on end, which is why we've proposed a trial of new parking arrangements this sum-

mer," she said.

"These trial arrangements aim to increase the turnover of parking in the areas close to the beach and shops."

Ms Wilkinson said council officers would evaluate the parking restrictions at the end of the trial.

"While we believe the trial is a good first step, we're fully aware that we need a longer-term solution to manage parking in busy coastal areas during summer," she said.