

WYE RIVER AND SEPARATION CREEK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Easter 2013

Produced & distributed by the Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association Inc

Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club

After one of the warmest summers I remember in nearly 30 years of coming to Wye River, the club has had a busy but thankfully less dramatic season to date. This season has allowed us to consolidate a number of improvements and developments. We have had our first forays into patrolling at Separation Creek and have trained members for a whole batch of awards. An enthusiastic group of new Bronze-award members from Colac College, as well as new members from our own Bronze Camp, has brought a new crop of young patrollers to the club. The new Nippers competition squad led by Andrew Hack has taken off which will hopefully provide motivation for Nippers as they move through the transition period to juniors.

Another highlight was the community rip awareness event in early January which saw hundreds of spectators dotted around the town and on the beach watch Club Captain Cal Dower pour a striking fluorescent green dye into the sea and highlight, in a spectacular way, the rip on the west side of the beach. The day was perfect and the sea performed to cue: within four minutes the dye had been sucked out to the back of the rocks and was drifting across the back of the bay. The timing, after a busy Nipper's session, drew a lot of interest and coverage in the local press. Lifesaving Victoria provided the biodegradable dye and we hope this can be repeated next year. Wye River has one of the most dangerous beaches in Victoria and it is important that lifesaving clubs are able to demonstrate some of the rips to the general community. We did hear later that some locals thought there was a sudden burst of green algae erupting – it certainly managed to promote discussion.

As usual, Sharyn Brigham and her hard working band of helpers ran the Nippers program to their normal high standards. Unfortunately, we are unable to meet the demand for places and do offer apologies to those who miss out. Safety standards are very rigorous and ratios of trained lifesavers, beach support, age managers and first aiders plus the relatively small beach areas, prohibit numbers greater than about 130. Thanks are also extended to the great BBQ team whose unflagging efforts made a significant contribution to our coffers.

Fundraising is, of course, a large focus of our non-lifesaving summer activities: the comedy night, trivia night, wine tasting, sausage sizzles, tin rattles and door knock are extremely important events in helping keep the club afloat. We would also like to thank our sponsors: the Wye Beach Hotel, the General Store and Café and the Wye Riders, who have generously donated a rescue board worth \$1300. An item in the *Surf Coast Echo* recently records our thanks.

As we move into an unusually long warm spell in early autumn, I would like to impose on your generosity to support our major fundraising event at Easter, the Wing Ding. This year, Easter is very early and we haven't got a lot of time to raise donations, so please support our appeal for donations and also come along and enjoy a great meal and lots of fun. You may even come away with the most sought after items in Wye River – the towels! Goods for auctions/raffles at the Wing Ding can be donated on the morning of March 31st at the clubhouse – the event kicks off from 12 noon. Please supply the name of the donating business, as we like to thank our supporters.

At the time of writing, I am pleased to announce that we seem to have overcome the main hurdles to the building renovations and would like to thank Russell Hocking for his many hours of efforts and dogged determination to bring the parties to a resolution, sparing the club extensive planning and legal fees.

Upcoming events at the club:

- AGM : Easter Saturday, March 30th 4pm
- Wing Ding: Easter Sunday, March 31st from 12 pm

Debra Hocking: President

Wye River CFA

At the time of writing this, it has been Wye River's quietest fire season on record, for turnouts for both fires and motor vehicle accidents.

Through the off season, our members completed the new bay extension, with lining and painting: we also painted other unfinished areas and CFA repainted the 3 bay floors.

We also trained 4 new members with another due to start.

A gymnasium has been added and after having health checks by CFA and Otway Health, is open to all members and was well supported through the winter months.

Wye River has been selected in the pilot program for a Community Alerting Siren being trailed throughout different locations in Victoria. This will mean that we will have to reprint our Emergency Response Sheets, which most households have, as there are changes. Please note it is the same siren for testing brigade turnouts and community alerting. **Siren sounds for 20 seconds are a test. Siren sounds for 90 seconds are for brigade members to turn out. Siren sounds for 5 minutes you MUST seek information immediately from a source such as Local Radio 774 am Emergency Services website or Victorian Bushfire Information Line.** Please note with the overloading of phone and internet this summer, having a portable battery or wind up radio or use of your car radio to listen for warnings and advice could be the best recourse.

Roy Moriarty: Brigade Captain

CFA AUXILIARY REPORT

As you read this newsletter, I trust you will realise that the CFA FETE is on again!

The Easter Bunny will be there, so kids watch out for his eggs!!

Easter Fete: Saturday 30th March: 10.00am – 12.30 pm: WYE CFA STATION

We have already received lots of pre loved goodies: THANKYOU. Please make sure they are all in good condition; nothing chipped, broken or dirty, as the brigade now pays for the rubbish removal. Big items are acceptable on the day of the fete, on the understanding that if not sold, the owner must take them away. Lastly and very cheekily, I ask that no more items of any size be brought to the station, as we have so much it is getting hard for the fire fighters to use the station and this is (I hope not) the most fire prone time!!! Please keep things at home and bring on the Friday 29th or on the Saturday morning before the fete; they will then be very welcome. **CAKES, CAKES AND MORE CAKES PLEASE.** We can never have too many. Cake labels can be collected from the station in the Auxiliary drawers or ask myself or Yvonne.

We always want new ideas and helpers. We need helpers to set up for the fete on the Friday 29th from 10.00am and also from 9.00 on Saturday morning. We also need as many helpers as possible to sell raffle tickets on Friday 29th at 6.00pm. The old adage "many hands make light work" is sooooo true. Please, all come, on one or two of these times.

The only other time you are needed is to buy, spend, eat, drink and enjoy our fete.

Looking forward to seeing you on Easter Saturday 10am

Carolyn Tatchell: President 52890234

Otway Coast Committee (OCC)



Foreshore News:

It has been a busy couple of years for the OCC, along the coast and especially so at Wye River. The OCC has completed its major strategic planning document and as well, completed a number of major projects at Wye River.

At the WRSEPPA Community Forum on Sunday January 13th 2013, some questions were asked about the work of the OCC in its time as managers of the Wye River & Separation Creek Crown land reserves. Consequently, I thought it useful to provide information on the major projects completed and underway by the OCC, since July 2009.

Surf Club Beach Access: As a priority, the newly appointed committee engaged with the Club and DSE to construct a new beach access that would provide greater resilience to high tide / storm surge events. This work was completed in the first 3 months of the new committee and over the next 3 years, it was maintained after serious erosion events. During that time, other beach accesses were improved, with over \$18,000 being spent on beach accesses to date.

Bridge over Wye River at Big 4 Caravan Park: When the OCC was appointed in 2009, it inherited the project to oversee building of a new bridge over the Wye River, a project that had been stalled for a number of years. The proposed bridge, that had been accepted by all to that point, was to be a timber bridge with a mid-stream support, a proposal the OCC had serious concerns about. When the initial prohibitive quote was received for a timber bridge, the OCC saw the need to look for an alternative and actively pursued that outcome. At the same time, the funding from state government, that had been promised prior to the OCC taking over, had lapsed and the OCC successfully reapplied for \$33,000 funding. Within the first year of the OCC, the committee engaged with a contractor and developed a far cheaper and sustainable alternative that was delivered on budget within the first year of the committee.

New Beach Showers: The OCC successfully applied for about one third of the funding required to install two new beach showers on the foreshore that replaced the 'well used' previous showers, with more sustainable ones that also included foot washers. Total cost of the project was \$9,100.

Foreshore Toilets Upgrade: In early 2011, the committee completed renovation works on the foreshore toilets, installing new bench seating, hand basins, roof support posts and painting the inside. Works cost was just over \$8,000.

Safe Water for Wye River: In mid-2011 the OCC installed a water treatment system to the water supply for the Wye River SLSC Club House, Bunkhouse, Foreshore Camping Ground, Beach Showers, playground and BBQ taps. In early 2012 Colac Otway Shire reported that the OCC supply was the only commercial supply in Wye & Kennett that had a ZERO Ecoli & pathogen count. The multi filter & UV treatment system cost approximately \$8,500.

Wye River Foreshore Camping Ground – Sewage Treatment Plant & New Amenities Block:

The OCC has continued to work on the provision of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at the Foreshore Camping Ground and is currently working to ensure EPA Works Approval is obtained as soon as is practical. The expected cost of the STP is about \$190,000 and a new amenities block will cost at least \$350,000. To date, about \$28,000 of the above totals has been spent on design, engineering, and application fee expenses to progress the project.

OCC Financials: A query at the January Community Forum was raised about the OCC's financials and financial planning. I reiterated the OCC's commitment to keeping the funds left from the previous Wye River Foreshore Committee for the cost of the STP and the Amenities Block at the Foreshore Camping Ground. This continues to be the case with the original, almost \$400,000 still on hand, even though substantial funds have been spent on the project and other major projects in Wye River. I also noted that even with the funds on hand, the STP & Amenities Block projects will require an additional \$100,000+.

Of interest, the OCC has spent over \$140,000 on maintaining and repairing the Crown land in Wye River & Separation Creek to date. I added that with respect to financial planning, the OCC had done considerable work in 2012 on its 5 year business plan, as part of the development of the Otway Coast – Coastal Management Plan (CMP). A CMP is a statutory requirement for Coastal Crown Land Committees of Management that details actions for 3-5 years ahead and a business plan for achieving those actions.

I also noted that the CMP contains the audited financial records of the OCC and the previous Wye River & Apollo Bay/Kennett River Foreshore Committees for the previous 5 years. The audited financials clearly show the previous Wye River Foreshore Committee funds and that the OCC still holds those funds. The CMP is currently with the Minister for the Environment & Climate Change, Ryan Smith, for his approval, as required by the Coastal Management Act 1995. When that approval has been received, the CMP will be made public and will be posted on the OCC's web site.

Paddys Path Update: The OCC has recently had a Civil Engineer with erosion / land slip expertise, inspect the slip on Paddys Path and expect to have project scoping completed within weeks and more comprehensive remediation design completed in the near future. For the moment, the engineer has advised that the path appears safe for pedestrian use. Soil test bores in the near future should give a better idea of the site stability.

Gary McPike: Executive Officer: Otway Coast Committee.

70 Great Ocean Rd Apollo Bay 3233 (Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve)

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Otway Coast Tourism

The holiday tourism season over spring and summer was good, similar to previous seasons, despite the high Aussie dollar. The tourism group is continuing to promote tourism through our website www.otwaycoast.com.au, our facebook page and individual websites. Owners who rent their properties are welcome to join our tourism meetings and network on ways to improve bookings. Just contact Rex on 0408 006 992.

Rex Brown: Chair Otway Coast Tourism

Internet Blackout over Summer

This year the mobile networks in Wye River and nearby villages were overloaded for 3 weeks after Christmas. Following the annual January village Forum, there was a flurry of letters to Telstra, local MPs and media, and various promises were made to improve the network. Telstra subsequently agreed to hold a public meeting in Apollo Bay in February and another meeting at Wye River on 13 March. The Apollo Bay network will be improved by mid-March and we are hoping for positive news at the Wye meeting.

If you were affected, it would be worth contacting Telstra Accounts to request some kind of credit. Several Wye residents have received hefty credits on their mobile bills for the summer blackout.

Rex Brown

Waste Collection in Wye River and Separation Creek

The Shire has completed most of the changes to improve waste collection in the villages. Turnaround points, or collection points, have been installed in Sarsfield St, Bass Av, McCrae extension, and corrals have been constructed at either end of Slashers Bypass (i.e. end of Morley and end McCrae). The contractor has ceased most of the very long reversing practices, which were a previous problem, and Colac Otway Shire has written to affected residents.

A new smaller truck has been delivered to the contractor and is having final adjustments to make it capable of our hilly terrain. It is expected to be in operation in a few weeks, as is a new turning area at the end of Dunoon Rd. A turn at the end of Sturt Ct is subject to investigations, which may take 6-12 months to complete and get through council.

Already the township streetscape is looking a lot better, with fewer bins left out for long periods. Colac Otway Shire will be putting information notices on bins left out, starting in March. Owners with just a few bags of rubbish can use the corrals, if they wish to avoid putting bins out.

Any landowners/ residents with questions about their situation, or how they can use the corrals, or the contact numbers of the contractors who are offering a paid bin put away service, should call Janet Forbes at Colac Otway Shire, 5232 9400.

Rex, Andrew, Mark, Jany, Yvonne, Sherryl, John H, Peter J for the Waste Consultative Group

EstuaryWatch

EstuaryWatch is an initiative of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the Western Coastal Board, to foster the interest of Corangamite region communities in their local estuary, and participate in its management.

At a Progress Association committee meeting last year, it was mentioned that estuary data collected at Lorne was assumed to apply to our river as well, so a suggestion was made to call for volunteers to establish a local monitoring group. Last October, the Wye River EstuaryWatch group comprising eight volunteers – resident and non-resident - was formed here in Wye River by our very professional, affable and patient co-ordinator, Rose Herben of Corangamite CMA.

If you happen to be down at the foreshore at 10am on the first and third Sundays of each month, you will know us by our green caps, as we record river, tidal, wind and sea-state information, and photograph the estuary from the caravan park pedestrian bridge.

We then upload the readings and photos on to the Corangamite CMA website, where such long-term collection of data provides vital information for the maintenance of our estuary health.

Rose brought her EstuaryWatch information table to the CFA summer fete, and we hope she will be there again at Easter. If you would like further information or are interested in joining our group, you might like to talk to her there, or I will be happy to arrange for her to contact you.

Yvonne Sheppard Phone: 5289 0068

Harrington Park

Multi Use Recreation Facility: we're waiting on the State Govt. to sign off on the Open Space grant which comprises the Harrington Park project and the River Walk. The draft project plans for the MURF, together with a list of components that can be pledged are on the Community Noticeboard. I'm sure there are many loved ones (human and furry) who would be honoured to have something (like a table and seat set) named after them. A mail out to each house in Wye, Sep and Kennett with a map, description and drawings of the project, yielded a few responses. These were considered in drawing up the final plans.

Thanks to Cosworks for mowing the park several times this summer. This significantly reduces the fire risk and ensures there's no cover for snakes – making the park a safe place to walk through. We will resume our weed spraying as soon as weather conditions permit.

Wildlife

The unprecedented number of 30+ days has resulted in many dehydrated birds and animals. With so many hot days in a row, the moisture content in eucalypts leaves reduces significantly and koalas come down to the ground looking for water as a consequence. Contrary to the popular myth, koalas do drink water, so leave ice cream containers of water near the base of their favourite trees. Leave water out for the birds as well as some of them are struggling.

This season we've had an unusual increase in the number of Gang Gang's. Normally these shy birds travel in 3's and usually come in during the early evening for water. Now they're travelling in larger groups and coming in for water a number of times during the day.

Over the peak visitor season, we've had the usual call outs for animals hit on the road by vehicles. Fortunately, some drivers were considerate enough to ring Wildlife Vic and these animals (predominately koalas and black wallabies) have been helped. Others weren't been so lucky.

A rare Cotton Pygmy Goose has been spotted a couple of times on the Kennett River.

Strange requests occasionally come in – including one last week to remove 200 roos from a property at the back of Lorne. That was a very easy “no”.

Remember: our wildlife can't phone and tell us they're injured, but you can. If you find any injured wildlife, phone **WILDLIFE VICTORIA 13000 94535** as soon as possible. If you would like to see and contribute to the extraordinary work Wildlife Vic does, go to their website: www.wildlifevictoria.org.au

Sherryl Smith Ph 52890066

Progress Association News

The January 2013 AGM saw new committee members Rex Brown (Vice President), Mark Stokes, Sherryl Smith, Pauline Wilson and Peter Jacobs join continuing members Joanne Tyler (President), Harry Lewis (Secretary), Juliet Le Feuvre (Treasurer), Toni Lawson, Stephen Rae, Matt Travers and Carolyn Tatchell. A useful community forum followed attended by around 50 people and representatives from the CFA, SLSC, Colac Otway Shire, Otway Coast Committee, Otway Tourism and Harrington Park.

Membership of the association is strong and growing with around 140 paid up members. Over 90% of these are weekend residents and campers. Members will shortly receive a survey to help the committee determine future priorities for our association. We encourage you to stay in touch with the committee through wye.seppa@gmail.com. A membership application/renewal form is located at the end of this newsletter. The objects of the Association are to advance the welfare and protect the environment of the Wye River and Separation Creek district.

A number of members participated in a “weed walkabout” with Shire staff in January, and we will be keeping a watch on outcomes. Members (and others) have been very active in lobbying Telstra about poor internet coverage during periods of peak load and it seems that we can expect an improved service. The Association is to approach the Shire with a request to form a community consultation group to work on a solution to problems caused by overnight parking in Wye/Sep during peak periods.

Production of this newsletter has been supported by Barwon Water funds dedicated to community education about waste water issues.

Joanne Tyler: President, WRSCPA

Wye River and Separation Creek Waste Water Education Project

As Barwon Water has now formally advised the community that reticulated sewerage will not be provided in Wye River and Separation Creek, there is now greater responsibility on private property owners to maintain and use their waste water systems, so that no water escapes and damages the environment by:

- polluting the waterways
- affecting health
- creating offensive odours
- increasing the risk of landslips

Property owners are encouraged to implement regular inspection and maintenance programs for their waste water systems (septic tanks and treatment plants) and to use them responsibly, by reducing water input (e.g. water saving shower heads). To assist, Colac Otway Shire (funded through Barwon Water) will be door knocking each property to raise awareness of the issue and distributing an information package. **Two pieces of information providing tips for property owners and holiday makers on the maintenance and responsible use of the waste water systems are included in this newsletter.**

Barwon Water has engaged Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) to undertake a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment and Site Audit. The Site Audit will be carried out over a 6 week period commencing in April, involving site inspections of all on-site wastewater treatment systems in the Wye River and Separation Creek areas, with the view of identifying the systems that pose the highest risk. Other reasonable wastewater management options for addressing the high risk systems will then be examined.

Max Gilbert: gilbert consulting pty ltd Email: gilbert@netcon.net.au Mobile: 0419 575 387

Local Goss

What a beautiful summer we have had: the best is that there have been no fires, floods or any other such disasters! Just a little rain would be gratefully appreciated PLEASE!

It is with sadness that we report that Phil Lawson died very unexpectedly after he had seemingly recovered from a series of illnesses and mishaps. He was even whipper-snipping his block the week before he passed on. He was a very colourful character who, with his wife Toni, loved holidaying here in Wye for well over 35 years. They loved their newly refurbished home here, just finishing it last year. We send Toni, his daughters Melissa and Kate and granddaughter Laura, (and his dog Gus) all our love and best wishes.

We also send our sympathy to the Hudson family. John Hudson, who with his wife Rosalie and their two children, had been holidaying at Wye for over 40 years, recently lost his battle with cancer.

Jack has turned 21!!!! Congratulations need go to Helen and Roy! As well as to Jack himself!

Rebekah, from the Foreshore Camping Ground is celebrating a BIG opps ..SPECIAL.. birthday too.

Katie and Ben have a very busy and exciting time ahead... we cant wait...!

Megan and Darcy have moved from our lovely area to try a new life in NSW. Good luck to them both: although it is definitely our loss, we wish them well.

Chris, Ashley and Matt from the Store are all going home to New Zealand after Easter; we sure will miss their smiling faces.

Even though Bridie and Sean are moving to Kennett to live, they will still be here at the Store and have Wye in their hearts.

Toby and Stephanie are both going to be full time residents of Wye.

Garry and the rest of the Lewis clan have moved into Sep. We wish them all well, living here permanently.

Stella, with her dog, has also traded Wye as her permanent place of abode and not just for holidays.

Jerome, Glenda's grandson also has moved back to Wye and is now working and living here.

Bree and Ballsy (Mark) with their girls, have seen the light and have bought a block back in Wye. Question is, will they move back from Deans March?

Sue and Peter not only became very proud grandparents, but also had the wedding of their daughter here in Wye – what a beautiful spot!! We also note that their son Tom is residing here for a while.

Pema is now the new face on the school bus with all the other school children. Actually, there are so many children from Wye and Sep and Kennett, that the Lorne Kindergarten has been taken over. All on board are from our area!!

Talking of our young, Juna won the under 9 Nippers Championships and also the under 9 swimming Lorne School Championships. Harry from Kennett is also the Lorne under 8 Champion! Well done boys!

Paul and Angus are leaving after Easter for their HUGE adventure on their motor bikes. They are planning to ride across many continents to eventually reach Europe then hopefully Africa. Wow! What a trip! We wish them a very safe and exciting time.

I hope you have all seen Jim- I don't know if I should say 'driving' around or 'hovering' - around in his beautiful new blue car. A definite upgrade from that old white thing!!!!

Don't forget, if you are down here or are free on the 4th Wednesday of the month, you are very welcome to join the Wye Sep and Kennett Ladies Lunch at the Pub.

We wish Caz all the best, all our love and prayers with her battle with her health. Her attitude is an inspiration to us all. She must have learnt it from Elvis, who I am glad to report, is now in fine form - I don't think I can add '...and fighting fit' as I don't think he ever has been!!

I've saved the best till last ... Fred and Billy Jane from the Foreshore Camping Ground will be celebrating their 68th Wedding Anniversary in April. They have been regulars in the camping ground for over 55 years! What can we say but FANTASTIC!

Have a good Healthy and very Happy 2013 everyone.

Love: the Busy Body

The Progress Association prints material from contributors, uncut. The views expressed are theirs and may (rarely) not coincide with those of the Association.

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS)

To ensure continuation of the work of the Progress Association, and of this Newsletter, PLEASE (RE)SUBSCRIBE. Annual membership is \$10 per person or \$15 per family.

Please complete this form and send it with your subscription to: **The Treasurer, WRSCPA, 14 Moore Street, HAWTHORN, Vic. 3122.** Make cheques payable to WRSCPA.

You can also pay by direct transfer to our bank account: WESTPAC, Colac branch: BSB 033-637, Account Number 99-0081, Account Name: WRSCPA. *Following lodgement please e-mail wye.seppa@gmail.com advising whom you have paid for, the amount paid, and giving the information requested below.* This is important because we must, by law, keep a record of paid-up members. Receipts will be issued on request.

Please indicate whether **Individual** or **Family** membership; **renewing?** (tick)

Name/s: (Please print)

Addresses: (Wye/Sep & other if applicable)

Phone No: (Wye/Sep & other if applicable)

Email:

Receipts issued on request.

