

WYE RIVER SEPARATION CREEK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER EASTER 2015

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

THIS IS THE LAST PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER TO BE HAND DELIVERED TO ALL THE HOUSES IN WYE RIVER AND SEPARATION CREEK! Over the years the PA committee has walked thousands of kilometres up and down the steep driveways, steps and hillsides in our towns and we have finally decided ... enough! In future, hardcopies of the newsletter will be available at the store, the pub and the campgrounds and we will email it to all of our members.

SO PLEASE JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO MAKE SURE YOU CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER. SEE DETAILS ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER or EMAIL US AT wye.seppa@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As usual, it's been a busy start to the year for the Progress Association. We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January and elected several new members to the Committee, which now has the following members:

Juliet Le Feuvre (President)	Harry Lewis
Ian Angus (Vice President)	Dennis O'Brien
Matthew Jackman (Secretary)	Mark Stokes
Toni Lawson (Treasurer)	Sherryl Smith
John Harris	Jeremy Tatchell
Greg Hocking	Pauline Wilson

We also passed changes to our Constitution to modernise our Rules. The new version is on our website at wyesep.org.au. The AGM was followed by the Community Forum with speakers from all of the local associations as well as the Colac Otway Shire (COS,) Otway Coast Council (OCC,) Vic Roads, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) and Telstra - definitely the place to be to hear about issues affecting Wye and Sep! Land, Water

In recent weeks we have been very concerned about the lack of progress in determining an alignment for the River Walk through the Big 4 campground. I will quote directly from last year's Easter newsletter, as the situation has scarcely changed since then: "The Wye River Walk was a WRSCPA initiative a few years ago. Approximately \$60,000 is being held, jointly by the Colac Otway Shire and OCC, for the purpose of developing the walk. There has been a dispute for some time now, between the OCC and the management of The Big 4 Caravan Park, over precisely where the boundaries of the path will be. If this is not resolved very soon, the funding could be lost. We have engaged with all stakeholders and urged both of the principal parties to resolve this as a matter of urgency, so that all members of the community - residents, holiday makers and tourists - can enjoy this beautiful part of Wye River and the Otways." At the time of writing, the funding is problematic, due to the stalemate between the principal parties, and the outcome is unknown. We'll keep you posted.

On a happier note, the realigned Paddy's Path was completed just in time for Christmas. We are delighted that this much used connection is back in operation. OCC and Vic Roads are planning an

extension to join up with the new footbridge over Separation Creek when that is built later this year.

Vic Roads are planning to start the reconstruction of the Separation Creek bridge in mid-winter and aims to have the work completed by the end of 2015. The work will involve a one-way section of the road and most likely traffic lights, so there will be some delays, but the end result should be worth it. They are also planning to reconstruct the bridge over Boggaley Creek.

We continue to work with Colac Otway Shire on a number of issues, particularly management options for Harrington Park. We are also providing feedback on the trial of parking restrictions over summer, which we felt worked pretty well.

Juliet Le Feuvre, President

CFA NEWS

After a busier year than normal last year, this year has started very sedately call-out wise, with only a half dozen turnouts thus far.

However, our members are heavily involved assisting with CFA burns at Cape Otway and Barongarook (which is near Colac). Here they have gained experience being mentored in all aspects of fire fighting, communication, burn patterns and fire behaviour. It is also good to get to know and work alongside members of our neighbouring brigades.

Our new light tanker is to be delivered to the district in July, so we look forward to adding to our capabilities next fire season. We also hope to change over our slip on, in time for the next fire season also.

The brigade has lodged an application for a community grant for a large generator, capable of running the whole station. This would enable the use of our siren during a power failure and provide charging points for the community during extensive blackouts and a community hub for information, a cuppa and a chat.

I would like to congratulate Kevin Jones on becoming a life member of Wye River Fire Brigade. Kev has been a member for over 30 years and was captain for 13 years, Lieutenant for more than 10 years and he is still actively involved. If the grass is ever long around the station, it means Kev is caravanning around Australia.

Another worthy recipient of life membership is Carolyn Tatchell, who has been a member for 20 years, was Communications Officer for 14 years and is currently Secretary. Carolyn was President of the Auxiliary for 14 years, stepping aside this year to encourage younger members to take a more active role. We welcome Christine Shaw to the position of President of the Auxiliary, and may she continue in this role for as long as Carolyn! I would like to thank both Kev and Carolyn for their support and commitment over many years.

In finishing I would like to remind everyone to review their fire plan and update where necessary. The CFA recommendation on extreme and Code Red Days is to leave and leave early. The Fire Ready App is great and it is recommended to obtain information from at least two other sources e.g. ABC radio 774, and the Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667. Have a Happy and Safe Easter.

Roy Moriarty, Captain, Wye River CFA Brigade

CFA AUXILIARY REPORT

Joint update from the outgoing President Carolyn Tatchell and newly elected President Christine Shaw

SUMMER FETE UPDATE

We wish to thank the whole community for once again getting together, volunteering your time, your amazing talents and endless enthusiasm that contributed to a record breaking, very successful and extremely fun Fete in January 2015. The record breaking \$17,000 that was raised is an amazing contribution, along with the grant for the much needed purchase of the new 1.2.4 mid-size tanker, making our town safer.

We would like to make a special mention to our appreciated sponsors, who make our Fete possible each year; we could not do it without you;

- The Wye General and staff
- The Wye Beach Hotel
- Garden of Eden fruit and vegetables in Appollo Bay
- Foodworks in Lorne
- Lorne Fish Co-op
- Myers Milk Colac

In addition we are also extremely thankful to those that spend hours and hours baking the famous cakes, slices, jams etc that bring people from far and wide to our Fete; these items are always snapped up within the first 15 minutes. Our thanks also to those who donated clothes (new, used and designer,) books, furniture, jewellery, surfboards, wetsuits and so, so much more.

We must be a community of very intelligent avid readers, as we had a huge number of books left over, so our happy band of book sellers held a bookstall in January. It proved to be extremely successful and was embraced by all ages, especially parents, as the children's book corner was sold out - we raised an additional \$800.00.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR EASTER FETE - Easter Saturday 4th April from 10am-12.00 noon.

Our dedicated CFA Women's Auxiliary team along with the Easter Bunny can't wait to see you all at EASTER.

We are always looking for new volunteers who can;

- Assist with set up Friday morning 3rd April (2-3hours)
- Selling raffle tickets Friday 3rd April 5.30pm - 7.30pm
- Work on a stall Saturday 4th April 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Help with pack up Saturday 12.00-1.00pm
- Come up with any new idea's
- Or donate

We welcome any new or used goods. Please keep in mind that we only have a window of 2 hours in which to sell items and most people attending are staying in caravan parks or holiday houses, so we prefer not to accept any items such as old TV's, beds, mattress etc although we are happy to accept any larger items of furniture. However, if these items are not sold on the day, it is your

responsibility to take them back, as we just don't have any storage space and the expense to get rid of such items takes away from the money we raise.

For any further information on anything to do with the Wye River Easter Fete, please don't hesitate to contact **Christine Shaw, the newly elected President** on 0431 877 370

Christineshaw68@hotmail.com; Carolyn Tatchell (previous President extraordinaire) or Yvonne Sheppard, Current Secretary (everyone knows the fete just wouldn't happen without her skills) on oldshep2@bigpond.com

ESTUARY WATCH

Since the successful implementation of the Corangamite Region EstuaryWatch programme, it has now expanded to include regional co-ordinators at West Gippsland CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, and Melbourne Water as well as Corangamite CMA. There are over 100 active EstuaryWatch volunteers collecting valuable estuary mouth condition information for the online database, which can be viewed by the public - www.estuarywatch.com.au .

The Wye River group, comprising committed community members, resident and non-resident, monitors our Estuary on the first and third Sundays of each month. Now in our third year, we have not once missed a monitoring date.

Each year, the EstuaryWatch staff at CCMA produce a calendar which is distributed to all volunteers. This year's theme is 'Estuarine Reflections' and it contains some truly remarkable and beautiful photos taken by EstuaryWatch volunteers, CCMA staff and community members. We were so pleased and proud when a photo taken by Jenni Kamp, one of our founding members, was accepted for the calendar. It shows the shadow on our river of an EstuaryWatcher taking a photo from the ocean-side pedestrian bridge - which really says it all.

As a result of meeting our co-ordinator, Rose Herben, at the CFA Auxiliary fete in January, we have now welcomed Michelle Wright as a valued additional member of our group.

If you are interested in joining, please contact me and I will put you in touch with Rose.

Yvonne Sheppard : Phone: 5289 0068

WYE RIVER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

"Surf Life Saving exists to save lives, create great Australians and build better communities,"
Mission Statement of Surf Life Saving Australia.)

Wye River Surf Life Saving Club (WRSLSC) can certainly proudly claim to aspire to the vision of Surf Life Saving Australia. During my time as a member of the club, I have been impressed by the dedication of members and others to support this endeavour. WRSLSC is one of 311 clubs from all over Australia affiliated with the national body, as well as being a member of Life Saving Victoria, which encompasses inland waterways and education. Since its humble beginnings in 1958, the club has come a long way. As the current president, I am proud to belong to the club, with many passionate and committed members. I have also been extremely fortunate to have a committee which has readily "put in" and contributed so many voluntary hours throughout the whole year.

As Easter falls early this year, the patrolling season finishes unusually early, on Easter Monday. This year, the club has had a record number of members and has been very lucky to have gained sponsorship and generous donations from Wye River individuals and companies. This has enabled us to ensure that operations and activities have been maintained and improved, despite the \$250,000 renovation to the club house.

We were very grateful to receive about one third of the funding for this project through Victorian government grants; the rest through fund-raising. The new renovation has transformed the way the club can operate, by providing a training room/office and a dedicated kitchen and bar area. The impact, so far, has outweighed expectations and the design and build was carried out with skill and a minimum of fuss. We were pleased to host the community launch in mid-January and were thrilled to have an excellent turn-out from club and community members.

Beach conditions have been pretty consistent this year, with fewer rips and swells. This factor, in conjunction with visible and vigilant patrolling, has seen fewer incidents than in previous years - for which we can all be grateful.

Our nippers program continues to go from strength to strength, with a committed co-ordinator and group of parents, who have built on the growth of the last few years. This year we had a record 160 nippers and were very successful in the regional championships.

The committee has decided that it is time to give the annual Easter Wind Ding a rest and we will be seeking new ways to raise funds in a fun way.

Our AGM will again be held on Easter Saturday, followed by a first for the club - a footy pie night (marking the changing of the seasons from patrolling season to the footy season.)

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the wonderful people in Wye River who have been so supportive and encouraging during the renovations and look forward to continuing to partner with you to maintain a safe and wonderful environment to be enjoyed by all.

Debra Hocking- President

OTWAY COAST TOURISM

Our group provides an energetic forum for tourism businesses, including holiday rentals, to network together. We also lobby for changes which will improve tourism in the area.

Recent topics include Wye River Walk delays; threatened closure of helicopter flights in the region; local area promotion via our website; best performing accommodation websites; summer parking; mobile coverage; opening of closed waterfall walks; regional destination strategies; aerial photograph services.

We are also actively lobbying for vegetation clearing on the Great Ocean Road so that travellers can appreciate our wonderful coastal vistas. We meet every two months and new members are welcome.

Rex Brown, Chair, Otway Coast Tourism 0408 006 992

OTWAY COAST COMMITTEE (OCC)

Paddy's Path Update:

During the last half of 2014, the OCC worked with the Department of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI), to develop a solution to the slip in December 2013 that had made Paddy's Path unusable. Working with a local Geo-Technical engineer and contractor with extensive experience in path construction a realignment of the path around the slip was completed in mid- December 2014. From all reports the new alignment has been well received and appears to be functioning well also.

The OCC and DELWP (formerly DEPI) are continuing to work with VicRoads on stabilising the 'toe' of the slip at the Great Ocean Road (GOR,) with a view to remediating the slip site, hopefully reducing the potential for the slip to migrate up the hill.

Wye River Foreshore Camping Ground:

To provide greater opportunities for visitors to the GOR and Wye River the OCC Committee resolved at its February meeting to trial keeping the Wye River Foreshore Camping Ground open over the month of May.

With the GOR Marathon in May, the OCC saw this as an opportunity to increase visitor opportunities, that will bolster the local economy and also assist with the OCC's bottom line and consequently its capital works program.

Wye River Foreshore Retaining Wall:

DELWP, working again with the OCC, in late February 2015, engaged Australian Project Solutions to undertake a rebuild of the foreshore retaining wall adjacent the mouth of the Wye River. By the time this newsletter is published, the work should be completed and the rejuvenated wall is expected to have a significantly increased working life.

Separation Creek Pedestrian Bridge:

The OCC is working closely with VicRoads on the construction of the new bridge at Separation Creek, defining the alignment of the paths on either side of the bridge, guardrails, beach accesses and also the re-vegetation of the areas either side of the new construction. It is our understanding that VicRoads expect to undertake the project in 2015.

Wye River - River Walk:

1. The OCC, as land manager, supported the Wye River Progress Association's application for funding from Colac Otway Shire (COS) and the subsequent application by COS to Regional Development Victoria for a total of \$60,000. The OCC offered to construct a compacted gravel path as a further contribution to the project.
2. Project partners have been discussing alternative pathway treatment options, such as a timber board walk, and the OCC would have no objection to this. However the OCC are not in a position to contribute to the construction or maintenance of an alternative path treatment and this decision would need to be made by the Project Manager (Colac Otway Shire,) in consultation with all project partners - and in consideration of total project deliverables and funding. A meeting of all project partners will be held shortly to confirm project deliverables and time frames.

Gary McPike: Executive Officer: Otway Coast Committee.

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

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LOCAL GOSSIP - MARCH 2015

It only seems like yesterday that I was collecting all the gossip I could from Wye and Sep. What has happened since ????

We have had two little boys; Jane Moriarty and Bernard have had their first son Archie! Helen and Roy admitted that they now can see what all the fuss is over having a grandchild!

Sergio and Tiffany have had their baby boy, Cid. A real family, they moved here 'sort of' permanently from France less than a year ago. Just see what the fresh sea air brings!!! We welcome them all.

Also Mary and Denis are back from their huge travels overseas... let's hope they will be settling here for a little while before the travel bug gets them again.

Back to babies.... Although he lives in Lorne we are thrilled to hear that Leroy and Eleanor are expecting their first child very soon... As with Sarah and Jaden Farrely - now proud home- owners in Kennett. I remember them as kids themselvesI must be getting old!

Talking of getting old we have had a few BIG birthdays! Between Gerry, Lesley and Joanne they have a combination age of 190 years!! I do admit that Gerry has the bulk of the years!!!!!! Congratulations to them all.

There are only a couple of deaths that I know of. Greg Lloyd's mother passed away at the beginning of March; Peter Latham's mother also passed on a few days later. Lottie McCaffrey's mother also died this year. However ill or old a parent is, it is still a big change. We send Greg, Peter and Lottie and their families all our love.

We have a few in our community still battling with their health - Marilyn, Carolyn and Jenda. 'Keep on keeping on' as the saying goes. We are here to support you; you just have to ask. Anne and Gordon McCombe are having a life style change as Ann is struggling with her health. Good luck! Shirley Crane is a real trouper; after another set of heart ops, she is up and fighting again! Love you Shirley

At long last, Evan Russell is marrying Sarah...in Broome in October. Another trip for Pete, Gail and family! Congratulations.

The Sporting and Social Club organized a terrific night of music on the long weekend, in memory of Stuart Mc Phee. For most of the bands and singers playing, Stuart had been their "Mixer". One exception was the 'Uclear' from Apollo Bay, including Pete Mitchell on his ukulele. Great to see he and Corinne back in town. The night couldn't have been more perfect; listening to the music while watching the sea and the sun setting over the hills and the moon rising over the sea.

Talking of congratulations, when you next see Juna Hack, give him a big "high five," as he did Wye very proud in the State Nippers Carnival... a great placing in the iron man championships to name one event!

It is lovely to see our beautiful area now; not too many people, the sun shining and it's not too hot. It seems such a pity that the summer holidays were not so good, but at least we were not subject to any bush fires.

To anyone who I have missed, my apologies.

Don't forget about the "Ladies Lunch," held in the Pub on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Please come and keep this old and very enjoyable tradition going.

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 the printing of this Newsletter, if you haven't already done so, **PLEASE (RE) SUBSCRIBE FOR 2015.**

Annual membership is \$10 per person or \$15 per family. An easy option, recently introduced, is that you may also renew your membership for 3 years.

Please complete the form below and send it, together with your subscription to: The Treasurer, WRSCPA, C/- Post Office, Wye River Vic 3221.

You may also pay by direct transfer to our bank account: WESTPAC, Colac branch: BSB 033-637, Account Number 99-0081, Account Name: WRSCPA.

Following lodgement of payment, please e-mail wye.seppa@gmail.com advising who 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 current 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: