

WYE RIVER SEPARATION CREEK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

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

www.wyesep.org.au

Dates for your diary: Wye River Bushfire scenario Saturday 7 November

Progress Association AGM & Community Forum: Sunday 17 January 2016 10am

Memberships are due for renewal! Please use the renewal form at the end of the newsletter and make sure we have your e-mail address. Contact us via wye.seppa@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The PA committee has been hard at work over winter to fulfil our purpose to 'enhance the welfare and protect the environment' of Wye River and Separation Creek. We have met with the CEO and officers of Colac Otway Shire and with the President and General Manager of Otway Coast Committee to put forward the issues that concern our community.

Riverwalk

We are extremely disappointed and frustrated that this long awaited project is not going ahead. After more than 2 years of negotiation between the managers of the Big 4 Holiday Park and the Otway Coast Committee and the best efforts of the Colac Otway Shire, DELWP and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, agreement on an alignment for the path has not been reached *and the \$40,000 in funding that was obtained by the Shire for the Walk is being returned to Regional Development Victoria*. This is a disaster for our community, whose members will justifiably question the commitment of the principal parties who failed to negotiate an outcome that was clearly in the interests of the community as a whole.

The Progress Association has worked for years to get this project off the ground with a view to improved public access through the Big 4 Park to the beautiful river walk beyond. It beggars belief that a simple alignment of a path along a river bank could not be agreed between the parties in the public interest and when money was available. There has been intransigence on both sides, with agreement tantalisingly close at several times over the last few months, only for more brinkmanship to occur. As a result the project has been unable to be completed within the clearly-defined funding timeframes, and the community is the big loser.

We will continue to agitate for the walk to be clearly delineated consistent with the terms of the lease to the Big 4 so that the community has unobstructed access to the river.

Summer parking

Colac Otway Shire is set to continue the trial of parking restrictions over the summer season. They are promising more enforcement this year so be sure to pay attention to the restrictions.

Road works at Separation Creek

Vic Roads is scheduling work on either side of the bridge in Separation Creek in November and December, to be finished before Christmas. The bridge itself will be replaced in 2016, with work due to start in February. A new footbridge will be

constructed at the same time. There may be some traffic disruption with a temporary traffic light in operation, but the road should remain open all the time.

Domestic Wastewater Management Strategy

The Shire is developing a new wastewater management strategy to help retain domestic wastewater within property boundaries. All allotments in our townships have been assessed as having high risk sensitivity so it's an important strategy. We met with Council officers and stressed the importance of leadership in resolving the water quality issues that have dogged our beach and estuary for years; and the PA has made a formal submission to Council which is available on our website.

Shire updates available on our website

Ian Angus, our Vice President, puts together a summary of relevant COS paper topics for the Committee to discuss at our meetings. If you want to catch up with the latest, these notes are available on our website at

<http://wyesep.org.au/colac-otway-shire-papers/> .

Please join us!

The Progress Association is doing a lot behind the scenes to keep Wye/Sep special. If you are a resident, landowner or camper, if you love what our townships have to offer, please consider becoming a member. The more members, the more effective our voice in getting the resources we need. See the page at the end of this newsletter or www.wyesep.org.ua/join. We send members email updates every few months, so that you can remain informed about what is happening in Wye.

Looking forward to a wonderful and safe summer at Wye and enjoying the many activities mentioned by Newsletter contributors!

Juliet Le Feuvre, President

Contact us on wye.sepp@gmail.com

WYE RIVER BUSHFIRE SCENARIO 7 NOV 2015!

Wye River Fire Brigade and Community Volunteers are hosting a Wye River Bushfire Scenario event

with 'Emergency Management Victoria'

10.00AM Saturday 7 November 2015 at the Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club.

UNDERSTAND AND PLAN FOR YOUR LOCAL BUSHFIRE RISK.

Wye River Fire Brigade and the Wye River Community Volunteers are hosting a bushfire scenario event at 10am on Saturday 7 November 2015 at the Surf Club.

This event will increase understanding of our local risk this coming fire season and explore options to improve our safety. With assistance from local Fire Coordinators and CFA Region 6 the event will demonstrate possible scenarios of bushfire impacting on our area and how community members can plan for these events.

This will include computer generated mapping (Phoenix modelling), understanding our local Community Emergency Management plan and planning where to from here.

Planned Burns will also be discussed.

This is great opportunity to begin your 2015/16 Bushfire Plan and add to our local Community Bushfire Plan!

We hope all of our community can come whether you are a holiday-home owner, permanent resident, camper or a holiday-maker. This year especially it's doubly important!

Everyone welcome! Everyone welcome!

CFA NEWS

It has been a very quiet year turnout wise for us so far. Through the winter months we have continued to train new members as well as some existing ones furthering their qualifications with structure fire courses and fire line leadership.

We also met with Emergency Management Victoria and SES to discuss issues due to fire, flood and landslides that could affect our town. We have had 2 further meetings with EMV and have invited them to run a bushfire scenario advertised above. I believe this will be well worth attending and encourage all to attend.

We have also taken delivery of a new light tanker which was made possible to purchase through a VESP grant and the wonderful fundraising efforts of our auxiliary and grants from Apollo Bay and district health foundation.

Fire restrictions will probably be introduced by the time you read this so please no burning off without a permit. It is always a good idea to notify Vicfire whenever you burn to avoid false alarm call outs. The number is 1800 668 511.

Thanks to Angus Hawkes you can now follow us on Facebook at Wye River CFA

Happy clearing and good luck on cup day.

Roy Moriarty, Captain, Wye River CFA Brigade

CFA AUXILIARY REPORT

The dedication, hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers at our Summer and Easter Fetes has enabled the Wye River CFA to purchase the new mid-size tanker in time to protect our community over the Summer Fire Season. *However* we still need more money to match the grant... SO if you missed the Easter Fete ensure you have this not to be missed Summer Fete date in your calendar. **Wednesday 6th January 2015 at 10.00am until 12.00pm at the Wye Fire Station.**

As always we are looking for pre loved or "new" goods clothes, house-hold items, books, toys, jewellery, crafts, home grown fruit and vegies, jams, CAKES and anything else that is lying around that we could sell (all clean and in good condition please.) We need special items for auctioning eg massages, facials, restaurant vouchers, travel vouchers, surfboards, wetsuits (anything \$\$\$) we are not fussy and open to any suggestions. If you have items that you want to drop down to the CFA prior to the fete don't hesitate to contact Christine 0431 877 370 or Yvonne 0407 883 116 to make a time.

Our summer Fete brings people each year from far and wide and it's the community event that makes Wye River a unique and special place so if you want to be part of the auxiliary to help in any way with any talent we will welcome you with open arms and a glass of champagne/beer !!! All welcome - men, women and children. Our first organising meetings is Sunday 1st November so please drop by at 1.30pm at the fire station or call me or Yvonne for more details.

Christine Shaw, President CFA Auxiliary 0431 877 370

ESTUARY WATCH

For three years now, the Wye River EstuaryWatch group has monitored and photographed our estuary on the first and third Sundays of each month. We upload our findings to the Corangamite Catchment Authority EstuaryWatch website where they can be viewed at www.estuarywatch.com.au.

Our volunteer group is supported by our EstuaryWatch co-ordinator, Rose Herben, who conducts Quality Assurance/Quality Control refresher training every six months. This ensures our monitoring methods are consistent with volunteers across the State, and the data can be trusted to inform decision making about the Wye River estuary.

Under Rose's training and induction, monitoring procedures are not difficult to learn, nor, with practice, too time consuming to carry out. Up until now, having an adequate number of members ensures there is always someone to do the monitoring, even if others are away. Soon however, three of our local members are moving away from Wye River. So, if you would like to join our group and give EstuaryWatch a try, please contact me and I will put you in touch with Rose.

Yvonne Sheppard : Phone: 5289 0068

WYE RIVER WATERWATCH

The Wye River Waterwatch group is part of the Corangamite Waterwatch program, which is managed by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA). We are a team of volunteers who monitor the water quality each month and undertake a macro-invertebrates (watrbug) survey twice per year.

Water samples are collected from the fishing platform (0.1km from the beach) and at the Big Tree (approx. 0.6km from the beach past the Big 4 Holiday Park). The water is tested to measure the water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH (level of acidity or alkalinity), phosphate levels, electrical conductivity, and turbidity, and we take note of any changes or events that might affect the river.

Our seven team members are Yvonne Sheppard, Carolyn Tatchell, Juliet Le Feuvre, Joanne Tyler, Michelle Wright, Mark Chittleborough and myself.

We can report that the readings, and the surveying of macro-invertebrates suggest that at the times of testing the river was healthy. Other indicators (such as E. coli) are not tested. We have been testing the water for 18 months and are keen to monitor any trends or changes. The Waterwatch coordinator for Corangamite, Deirdre Murphy, has provided training to help us hone our skills.

New members are most welcome. No previous experience in this area is necessary to be a volunteer - just an interest in the water quality and the environment. Please email me at gail@chittleborough.com.au and I can put you in contact with Deidre.

Gail Chittleborough

WYE RIVER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Dear everyone,

Once again the Wye River SLSC is gearing up for another busy season of patrols, nippers and events. With a very hot summer on the way we are expecting the beach to be very busy and we would ask everyone to remember to take care in the heat! Patrols are due to start on the 28th of November and finish on the 10th of April.

Nippers registration is on the 27th of December and will run until the 8th of January. Be sure to reserve your place as the club finds itself at capacity most years. The club loves running nippers and teaching the little ones some valuable surf skills while the parents take a well-deserved rest for an hour or two!

The club will also be running the following annual events, more information will be circulated closer to the event dates.

- Trivia night – packed house with plenty of tricky trivia and challenges
- Comedy night – Comedians, bar and a whole lot of laughs. What more do you need?
- Wine tasting – Come on down and sample so fine drops, take a few home too!
- Pie night – footy themed evening, activities and obstacle course for the kids while the parents put their feet up.

During the season the club will look to demonstrate the danger of RIPs by releasing some dye into the surf. This is an excellent opportunity to observe the power of RIPs safely and learn how they work!

Finally the club will be running its summer bronze camp starting on the 28th of December and finishing up on the 3rd of January. If you or anyone you know are interested in joining the club and becoming a lifesaver please come on down and join us for an action packed week!

We are always looking for new ways to engage with the wider community that supports us so much so if you would like to see the club doing something or have any bright ideas please let us know and we will do our best.

Please check out our website for further details on <http://www.wyeriverslsc.asn.au/index.html>

Ryan Towers - Club Captain

OTWAY COAST TOURISM

We are a group of tourism operators including holiday rental owners who work together to find ways of promoting and increasing tourism in our area. We cover the area from Wye River to Wongarra, meet every few months and network among ourselves on capitalising on new trends in tourism. We have input to the shire and regional tourism groups and provide advice to Vicroads on tourism aspects of the road upgrades.

All tourism and holiday house operators welcome to attend meetings and get our emails.

Rex Brown, Chair, Otway Coast Tourism 0408 006 992

WYE WEED WARRIORS

As members of Wye to Wongarra Landcare, we are a small group of residents wanting to do something about weeds in Wye River and Separation Creek. We hope to assist property owners to identify and deal with some of the worst weeds on their properties as well as enlist professional help to eradicate large invasive infestations.

If you would like a free brochure explaining the worst weeds in the area - their impact on you, and what is being done – please send an email to wyeeweeds@gmail.com with 'Brochure' in the subject line.

If you are interested in joining us, you can also contact us on the above email address.

Rex, Stella and Yvonne

WYE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Wye River Community Garden enthusiasts meet every Sunday at around 11 a.m. at Harrington Park. Everyone is welcome, and we are always looking for more regular, or irregular members. Even if you don't know anything about gardening, still come and enjoy the camaraderie, and a cuppa. And rules, well no politics, but apart from that, there are no rules!

We are always looking for donations, ie unwanted pots, tools, seeds etc

The philosophy behind the garden is sharing, helping, learning, community, play, environment, organic fresh food, creativity and making friends.

The benefits

Community building tool

Reduces stress and improves health of community members

Preserves green space

Provides a space for artistic and creative expressions

Produces fresh, organic and nutritious food

Provides a space for spiritual connections with the earth

Beautifies and enriches the local environment

Creates a garden where Fairies will come, if you believe!

Creates opportunity for recreation, exercise and learning

Allows chat between those of all ages and cultures

Gardening relaxes the mind and energises the body

Gardening collectively, sharing and exchanging helps reduce social isolation and loneliness

Sharing produce, ideas, experience and recipes etc

You receive a dose of my romance poems!

And most of all - ITS FUN!

Look forward to seeing you there

Peter and Sue Latham, Convenors

OTWAY COAST COMMITTEE (OCC)

We have not received any copy from OCC by deadline. Please check their website <http://www.otwaycoast.org.au/> for updates.

NOTES FROM COLAC OTWAY SHIRE ON THE RIVERWALK

- Due to the complex land ownership, management and tenure arrangements, as well as challenges with the proposed location and construction materials, the Wye River pathway project cannot go ahead.
- The complex nature of the land management is due to it being Crown land (owned by the State Government), managed by the Otway Coast Committee and leased to a private operator.
- Ultimately agreement wasn't reached on a suitable alignment that met the needs of the land owner, land manager and the lessee, which was within the available budget.
- Council worked in close partnership with all stakeholders to try and overcome the barriers to building the pathway, because we recognised the benefits this project would offer to the Wye River community as well as visitors to the town. Unfortunately a positive outcome couldn't be negotiated.
- Regional Development Victoria, which contributed \$40,000 to the pathway project, has confirmed that there will be no further extensions for the grant. In keeping with RDV's requirement, Council is in the process of arranging the grant's return to the government.
- Council hopes to work with the Wye River community in the future to develop a new project application for future consideration as part of the Small Town Improvement Program (STIP), or other funding programs.
- We would like to thank the Wye River Separation Creek Progress Association for their work on this project, as well as the Otway Coast Committee, which manages the land. Council shares the disappointment of the Progress Association in not seeing this project come to fruition.

Ian Seuren, Manger Arts and leisure

LOCAL GOSSIP – OCTOBER 2015

I'm only allowed to be short and sweet this time.... so do I start with the good or bad news? Bad.. so I finish on a high like the News on TV!!

Sadly, we have had a few deaths in our community. Flic Nolan's brother Chris Lever died. He had a house here for hundreds of years with Flic and Sue. Eric Lewis passed on. Although he no longer lived in Wye his thoughts were here always. Derek Markham also passed away last month and is greatly missed by his family and friends in Melbourne and at Wye.

We send all the families our love and sympathy.

We also send all our love to the sick members of our community. Carolyn Greene is battling on, as are Kate Lawson and Anne McCombe. It just doesn't seem fair! The strength you are all showing is fantastic. We think and pray for you all the time as well as for your families. Hot off the press....we've just heard that Lorraine Mulder's treatment is working very well! Wheeeee! Please know that our little community is here to help if there is anything we can do.

If there are people I've not mentioned it's only because I don't know but please believe our thoughts are with you too.

We have had new people move into town... Neil came all the way from England to work with Dave H2O. Megan is back... we hope to stay. Mark has also joined us for a year or so.

Morag, Stephen, Julian and Gabe have left Wye for Geelong for family and business ease. Marilyn is now fit and well and living in Geelong but she still comes down to her home here often. Jeremy and Carolyn are also leaving Wye. They claim it is the driving that they do has just 'got to them' but I recon it's because Jeremy's now 70! That's seriously OLD (Carolyn's MUCH younger!) They say that it's only 'au-revoir' not 'adieu' and we'll be seeing them round all the time.

I don't know of any new babies since last news sheet but I hear that Matt and Leanne are expecting their 4th child early next year!! Amazing

We have a number of new grandchildren to first time Grandparents... Gail and Mark's last boy was just married off in 'Gay Paris'. Now to another son their first grandbaby is imminent. Juliet and Charles are proud grandparents of a baby boy. Kate and Harry are off to England to meet their first grandchild for the first time. Exciting times!

I know I've missed lots of news and gossip but like a number of Wye community I went away for those cold months.

To finish on a happy note like in the TV NEWS Mark, Marcela and Luke's dogs produced an amazing gorgeous litter of pups all snapped up by locals so you will see these adorable pups everywhere.

Have a happy, safe and fire free season. Beware of snakes. **I hear the Bush Fire scenario planned on the 7th November is MUST! Everyone who is anyone will be there!!!!**

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, **PLEASE SUBSCRIBE FOR 2016**. Subscriptions are due by the AGM on 18 January 2016

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 - \$30 per person or \$45 for a family.

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: