

Community Resilience Newsletter

Wye River Fire

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE

WYE RIVER | SEPARATION CREEK

21 MARCH 2016

This is a weekly newsletter being issued by Colac Otway Shire to provide the community key updates about recovery following the fire.

Community Resilience Committee

The Community Resilience Committee met formally for the first time in Wye River yesterday.

The Committee consists of representatives of the Wye/Sep community, the Victorian Government and Colac Otway Shire.

The Community Resilience Committee will be Co-Chaired by the Mayor of Colac Otway Shire, Cr Frank Buchanan and community member Dr Diane Sisely.

The Committee will be meeting fortnightly for the next three months, until the end of June.

These regular fortnightly meetings will ensure that all CRC members are informed about the broader resettlement and reconnection project plan being developed and implemented and will provide community feedback.

The Community Resilience Committee will be hosting a table at the CFA Easter Fete, this Saturday, from 10am – 1pm.

Members of the community are invited to meet with the CRC members and discuss issues or projects and provide feedback about the overall Resettlement and Reconnection of Wye River and Separation Creek.

Clean-up Update

The Grocon led clean-up is entering its third week and to date, eight properties have been cleaned up.

Windy and wet conditions last week forced work to cease on a number of occasions, however, the clean-up crews worked on Saturday in an attempt to make up for the impact of the weather.

Clean-up work continues this week on Dunoon Road, Iluka Avenue, Mitchell Grove and Karingal Drive.

The clean-up work will pause over the Easter break and start up again next Tuesday.

For residents who have opted out of the clean-up, Colac Otway Shire is issuing building orders which detail how to clean-up your property safely and in accordance with legislative requirements.

If you have questions about conducting a clean-up privately, you can contact the Bushfire Recovery Information Centre on 5232 9400 or e-mailing bushfire.recovery@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Coordinator Bushfire Recovery commences

Connecting the community is a major part of the Resettlement and Recovery process.

Clare Malone joins Colac Otway Shire's Bushfire Recovery division in the role of Coordinator, Bushfire Community Recovery.

Clare's role will focus on community activities related to the resettlement and recovery of the Wye River and Separation Creek communities, impacted by the Christmas Day bushfires.

The Coordinator Bushfire Community Recovery will coordinate partnerships with state, regional and local agencies to deliver a range of community recovery services for the bushfire impacted communities including emergency, intermediate and long term accommodation, community events and programs or projects, coordination of donations, coordination of the One Stop Shop and information centre and coordination of volunteers.

If you have a community event or program planned or an idea you would like to discuss, you are invited to contact Clare.

Clare is based in Apollo Bay and Colac and can be contacted by e-mail clare.malone@colacotway.vic.gov.au

From the Mayor

Yesterday I met with the members of the Community Resilience Committee as we held our first meeting in Wye River.

While members of the Committee have met informally and all members of the Committee have been meeting with local residents and groups for many weeks and months, this was the first official meeting of the CRC.

The Community Resilience Committee is Co-Chaired by Dr Diane Sisely and I and the Committee includes Colac Otway Shire CEO Sue Wilkinson, Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley and seven members of the Wye River and Separation Creek community.

This Committee plays a very important role in the broader plan for the Resettlement and Reconnection of Wye River and is a vital conduit between the community and the project coordination team.

The Victorian Government and Colac Otway Shire has developed a project plan for the resettlement and Reconnection of Wye River.

The Committee was introduced to and updated on the eight project areas, as well as the communications framework.

The eight project areas include the clean-up, community connection, community wellbeing, infrastructure, planning and building, flora, fauna and beachscape, tourism and business.

As many of these project areas are the responsibility of both the State Government and Colac Otway Shire, there is a partnership approach to determining what needs to occur to resettle and reconnect the community.

The Community Resilience Committee plays a vital role in contributing to this partnership and representing community views on current and long term issues and projects.

I think everyone is aware of the enormity of the task ahead of us and both the Shire and the Victorian Government have committed significant resources.

The Community Resilience Committee agreed to meet fortnightly for the next three months as well as participating in community events so that community members can meet with the members and ask questions, make requests and offer suggestions.

I encourage all of your attending the CFA Easter fete this Saturday to get in touch with the Committee members who will be at the fete.

I hope everyone has an opportunity to rest over the Easter break and enjoy some precious time with family and friends.

- **Frank Buchanan**

From the Emergency Management Commissioner

The Easter weekend has always been a time for family and friends to gather down the coast and celebrate.

Although Wye River and Separation Creek have changed dramatically since last year, the community spirit remains and there are a lot of fun family activities planned for this weekend.

Over the past three months I have spent considerable time down at Wye River and Separation Creek, learning about the community and discussing key issues.

Along with the teams of staff and volunteers supporting the resettlement of Wye River and Separation Creek I have felt welcomed and accepted into your community, and this Easter break I will be thankful for the opportunity to be part of your resettlement journey.

Make sure you check out WyeSep Connect for information about all of the Easter events and to keep up to date with any resettlement progress.

While WyeSep Connect and the Facebook page are a great starting place for information, if you have any specific questions about your circumstances I encourage you to contact the Bushfire Information Centre or book into a One Stop Shop.

During the past few weeks Grocon has been working hard, including across the weekends to take advantage of the weather.

So far eight properties have been cleaned, pending an Environmental Certificate. Four of these are in Wye River and four in Separation Creek.

The plan is to complete the clean-up in Separation Creek first, which with weather permitting, will be just after Easter.

Five crews are currently working across Wye River and Separation Creek, however with our first priority being the safety of the community and all workers on site they have had to miss a few days due to the risk of land movement and tree fall in rainy or windy conditions.

Thankfully we have a great team of specialists on site, along with the Bureau of Meteorology, monitoring and providing advice on weather and safety concerns to ensure work progresses whenever it's safe to do so.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break spent with family and friends.

- **Craig Lapsley**

Lions Club of Lorne Accommodation

The Lions Club of Lorne has provided a great deal of support and assistance to residents impacted by the Christmas Day bushfires.

One significant project is the accommodation service at the Big 4 Park in Wye River.

The Lions Club of Lorne has generously paid for cabin accommodation for many families to enable them to visit their property and spend time in Wye River.

From 21st March, through to the Melbourne Cup Weekend, there will now be one cabin available for fire affected residents wanting to spend time in Wye River.

It will be a standard cabin towards the back of the park with bedding consisting of a double and two sets of bunks, table and chairs. It will not be an ensuite cabin and therefore guests will use bathroom facilities at the park.

The cost per night for cabin (regardless of number of guests) will be only \$20 per cabin per night, which will cover basic costs.

The Lions Club of Lorne has already paid for 100 nights in advance to secure this discounted rate, therefore all bookings must be made through the Lions Club.

To make a booking, please e-mail lornelionsbookings@solution4u.com

ALL enquiries and bookings must be made through this e-mail address. Bookings cannot be made directly with the Big 4 Park. Please do not ring the Big 4 staff as they will be unable to assist you.

Once you receive a booking confirmation email, you must then pay for your accommodation by making a deposit into the lions Club of Lorne bank account.

Lions Club of Lorne
Commonwealth Bank – Lorne,
BSB: 063-708

Account no. 10083889.

When making a payment, your reference will need to be: Cabin and your last name i.e.: Cabin – Smith.

All bookings require you to bring your own linen and water and the cabin must be cleaned on departure for next guests staying. No dogs allowed and all guests must obey the rules of the park.

The Lions Club of Lorne hopes you enjoy your stay.



WyeSep Connect

Do you have news you would like to share or an event coming up? Maybe some questions that need an answer?

All the latest information about the resettlement of the Wye River and Separation Creek communities is available at www.WyeSepConnect.info

Residents and invited to contribute by e-mailing contactus@wyeseconnect.info

For more information and to get the latest news, visit www.wyeseconnect.info, and also join our Facebook community at www.facebook.com/WyeSepConnect.

Community Firewood

A number of trees that were declared dangerous and felled as part of the Clean-up process are being made available for fire affected residents to cut up and use as firewood.

The felled trees, which have been examined for asbestos and other toxins, are safe to touch, cut up and use as firewood by fire affected residents.

The Community Fire Wood trees will be located on the Shire land at the end of Sarsfield Street, near the end of Stanway Drive.

Wye River and Separation Creek residents are welcome to cut up what they need and take it home. Some tree mulch is also available for residents to take for their gardens.

Residents are advised to use well maintained equipment and protective clothing including gloves and eye and ear protection. Cutting up and transporting the wood is to be done at the residents own risk.

Personal Support

A community session with Dr David Younger was held in Wye River on Saturday 12th March.

Dr David Younger is a Consultant Psychologist who has extensive experience in providing support and assistance to communities, individuals, and families affected by such events as the 2009 Victorian and 2013 Tasmanian bushfires, as well as the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire.

A number of group sessions will be held in coming months with Dr Rob Gordon and David Younger.

Help is available - For information on services available locally and referral for support please call Department of Health and Human Services on 0417 311 293 for tailored individual advice.

There are also a range of videos by Dr Rob Gordon on www.wyeseconnect.info

These videos provide some great tips on understanding and managing stress.

Upcoming events:

CFA Easter Fete

Wye River CFA will be holding their annual fundraising Easter Fete on Saturday 26th March, from 10am – 1pm.

There will be a range of items for sale including handmade crafts, delicious home grown and home made bottled goods, baked items and produce, new and pre-loved designer clothes and accessories, tagged and tested electrical items, toys, toiletries, books and Bric-a-Brac.

There will also be a raffle and a range of auction items to bid on.

Funds raised will be directed towards training and communications facilities within the Fire Station.

For more information or to donate items, please contact Christine Shaw christineshaw68@hotmail.com or phone 0431 877 370

Wye River SLSC Wye Revival Family Day

The Wye Revival Family Day will be held on 27th March, from 4.30pm onwards.

Come along and enjoy live entertainment, face painting for the kids, a delicious BBQ and hot jam donuts!

Lorne Sculpture Biennale comes to Wye

Found objects from the recent Great Ocean Road bushfires will be given new life as contemporary artworks thanks to a community project featuring as part of the 2016 Lorne Sculpture Biennale

Melbourne-based artist Shoso Shimbo will work with Wye River community members during the Biennale to transform salvaged objects into sculptural pieces that will be displayed on the Wye River foreshore.

Ten smaller sculptures will also go on display at the Wye River General Store and Wye Beach Hotel.

The Victorian Government provided \$15,000 to support the initiative, where community members and Biennale organisers joined forces to establish a project to commemorate the devastating fires over the summer period, celebrate the resilience and spirit of the community and give visitors another reason to visit the town.

Shoso is a renowned artist with more than 20 years' experience creating large-scale sculptures using objects ranging from flowers to wood and metal.

He has previously participated in the Lorne Sculpture Biennale and London's Chelsea Flower Show.

Over four weekends of the Biennale, Shoso will work in Wye River to create sculptures using charred wood and debris that has been collected by community members.

The final sculptures will be displayed along the foreshore as part of the Lorne Sculpture Biennale's closing celebrations.

The 2016 Lorne Sculpture Biennale runs until Sunday, 3 April, 2016 and the Wye River project will be active on the foreshore each weekend.

Sustainable Hook and Vine Festival

The Sustainable Hook and Vine Festival will be held in Torquay, on Saturday, 9th April. The organisers are kindly offering half price tickets to fire affected residents.

If you would like to organize a discounted ticket, please e-mail bushfire.recovery@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Great Ocean Road Marathon

Don't forget, the GMHBA Great Ocean Road Marathon will be held on the weekend of 14-15 May.

The Great Ocean Road will be closed on the Sunday, from 7am – 2:30pm so please factor this in if you are coming to Wye or Sep for that weekend.

Have your say

Do you have information you would like to share with the community, or an event coming up? Do you have questions you'd like answered?

Please e-mail Emma Diffen, Bushfire Recovery Communications Manager via emma.diffen@colacotway.vic.gov.au so that your event can be shared and questions answered by Colac Otway Shire.