

Community Resilience Newsletter

Wye River Fire

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE

WYE RIVER | SEPARATION CREEK

2 AUGUST 2016

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

Wye's Christmas in July

Wye River community members who missed out on Christmas lunch got a second chance last weekend.

Santa joined 80 community members celebrating Christmas in July at the Wye River pub.

The day, including presents from Santa for the children, had a very chatty vibe according to CFA captain Roy Moriarty.

He said the event went well and organisers received very positive feedback.

"The whole idea was to get everyone together in a positive frame of mind after what they've been through. And it was great to see so many people from the different parts of the community.

"It was very chatty. We had a great meal; I met people I'd never met before. It was great to get the different reps from the community all together. It was a good community event and that was the idea of it," he said.

Wye River resident Yvonne Sheppard said it was a milestone event. A lot of people missed out on a Christmas and this was an opportunity to have one.

"It was a very positive occasion. There was a really positive atmosphere, it was lovely," she said.

Volunteers were recognised with personally labelled bottles of wines thanking them for their efforts in December. Donations from a former Wye River resident, CFA brigades across the state and interstate and from the Sisters of Mercy to recognise those working on Christmas Day funded the event.

Update on trees

As requested by the community, Grocon engaged three new independent arborists to review Surf Coast Trees' assessments and conduct their own assessments.

The criteria the arborists have worked to has not changed. They have used their professional knowledge and skills to determine which trees pose a risk and need management action.

The new independent arborists believe Surf Coast Trees has been too conservative in their assessments and have made different recommendations, including identifying further trees for removal.

Despite the arborists' recommendations, property owners can select not to have trees removed or pruned. This means that property owners take on liability and ongoing management of the trees.

This is no different to any property owner in Victoria having liability for trees on their property, however the issues have been identified by an arborist so the property owner is aware of the risk.

For more information on tree management see <http://wyeseconnect.info>

What's On in August

APZ Open House

Sunday 7 August, 11am-3pm

Between the Wye River General Store and Café and Playground

Wednesday, 10 August, 4pm-7pm

Richmond Town Hall

Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group

Saturday 6 August

Bird Box Project BBQ

Tuesday 30 August, 11.30am-1.30pm

Stribling Reserve

Otway Street, Lorne

Wye Big Day Out Cancelled

The Wye Big Day Out event organisers have decided to postpone this weekend's event following discussions with Colac Otway Shire and the Victoria Police.

Colac Otway Shire and authorities have expressed concern about large numbers of people, vehicles and equipment using Harrington Park in light of the current heightened risk of landslip and falling trees.

Council is actively working with the organisers to reschedule the event when the weather clears.

Colac Otway Shire has stopped taking bookings and issuing permits for public events for Harrington Park in Wye River until further notice.

Agencies will continue to monitor the area and reassess the situation if circumstances change.

Harrington Park remains open to the public for general everyday use.

July's Community Meeting online

People unable to make July's community meetings can view them online at <http://wyeseconnect.info>

The meeting included presentations from Minister Lisa Neville, Diane Sisley (Community Resilience Committee), Deborrah Jepsen (Emergency Management Victoria), Doug McNeill (Colac Otway Shire), Inspector Geoff Colsell (Victoria Police), Justin Leonard and Andrew Morrow (Building Construction Advisory Panel) and John Ginivan (DELWP).

Community Resilience Committee vacancy

Colac Otway Shire is seeking nominations from interested community members and property owners in the Colac Otway municipality to fill an extraordinary vacancy on the Community Resilience Committee.

The CRC is co-chaired by the Mayor, Colac Otway Shire and a community representative and was convened through a partnership between the Shire and EMV to assist the community's recovery from the impacts of the Christmas Day bushfires.

Community members will play a vital role in ensuring that the community's views are actively integrated across all recovery activities.

Community members who would like to nominate for the position can download and complete the form at <http://wyeseconnect.info/join-community-resilience-committee/> by Wednesday 10 August 2016.

APZ Open House

The Victorian Government will be hosting two Open Houses in August, following the recent series of APZ Cluster Meetings in Wye River and Separation Creek.

These events will provide an opportunity for the broader community to understand the outcomes of the cluster options explored by community members and land management agencies (including Asset Protection Zones). Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning officers will also be on hand to talk through cluster options.

Details for the Open Houses are listed below:

Sunday 7 August

11am-3pm

Between the Wye General Store and Café and Wye River Playground, Wye River

Wednesday 10 August

4pm-7pm

Room 1, Richmond Town Hall,
333 Bridge Road, Richmond

Safety Message from Victoria Police

Incident Controller, Inspector Peter Seel has released a message to the community:

As a consequence of the Wye River and Separation Creek bushfires on Christmas Day and above average rainfall this winter, the risk of landslide and falling trees has increased and is a focus of concern.

It is important that all residents, tradespersons and those visiting or travelling through Wye River and Separation Creek take care around damaged and destroyed retention structures, earth cuts and embankments.

In the event of a landslide or falling tree blocking a road and causing a risk, please call 000 and request police attendance.

Community vision feedback

The Community Resilience Committee is seeking feedback on the draft vision for the communities of Wye River and Separation Creek.

The vision is the result of a workshop held last month, and attended by more than 40 people, to think about how the community would like to be in the future.

The draft vision is:

Wye River and Separation Creek is a small, inclusive and respectful community in a place of great natural beauty that highly values the forest, beach and natural landscape and works to preserve and sustain them.

- Community voices are valued and respected
- Natural beauty is enhanced by small scale and informal facilities
- Regeneration places high priority on indigenous flora and fauna
- Development is sympathetic to the environment and of minimal impact
- Risk is managed to maximize public health and safety

Community members can tell us what they think in an online survey at <http://wyeseconnect.info>. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to fill in.

The results of the survey will guide the ongoing development of the Resettlement Plan, which shapes the future of our community, and the work of the Community Resilience Committee.

The survey will be open until mid-August.

Retaining Walls

A map showing the location of retaining walls and sites being monitored will be released on WyeSep Connect this week.

Property owners, who have High or Very High Risk sites on their property, as well as neighbouring residents and those who have these sites in the road reserves near their properties are being contacted directly by phone or email.

The number of High and Very High Risk sites requiring wall installation, repair or replacement or other mitigation works has increased to 46. Currently there are 54 structures or mitigation works to occur on the 46 sites.

6x6 Design Exhibition information

For those who were unable to attend the 6x6 design exhibitions held in Wye River and Melbourne over the past two months, the video presentations are now online at <http://wyeseconnect.info>.

The exhibitions were curated by EdwardsMoore Architects and commissioned by the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.

The presentations, by six architects, explore the costs and challenges, as well as exciting design opportunities that come with building in hilly, coastal and bushfire-prone areas.

Water tank proposal for Harrington Park

Community members are reminded to have their say on the location of the water tank proposed for Harrington Park.

Following the Christmas Day bushfire, the Lions Club of Lorne has kindly donated a water tank to the Wye River and Separation Creek community.

It is proposed that the 19,000 litre water tank will be placed in Harrington Park, either to the east of the current shelter and directly above the car parking area or to the north of the community garden

The tank is proposed as an alternate water supply for the community in case of a future bushfire event or other circumstance where water may be needed by the community. It is intended to achieve greater resilience for the community and could also supply water to the community garden within Harrington Park.

The two proposed tank locations take into account the views of different members of the community. The proposed locations should not adversely impact on the amenity of the road and adjoining land, and would not prejudice the future use and development of the reserve. There is no intention to install public toilets in Harrington Park.

Council is seeking feedback from the community on this proposal, and will take any comments into account before authorising the works to occur.

Detailed maps and aerial shots of the proposed locations are available on www.wyeseconnect.info. Feedback can also be provided through the website or by contacting the Bushfire Recovery Information Centre on 5232 9400 or e-mail bushfire.recovery@colacotway.vic.gov.au no later than **Wednesday 3 August 2016**.