

Community Resilience Newsletter

Wye River Fire

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE

WYE RIVER | SEPARATION CREEK

16 FEBRUARY 2017

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

VicRoads Update

Works resumed on the Paddy's Path hillside at Wye River and on the Great Ocean Road on Friday, February 10.

VicRoads and Alliance partner Fulton Hogan began Stage 2 works which initially involve preparation for the upper retaining wall at Paddy's Path. Surveying and excavations have occurred and equipment has been brought onto the site. It is estimated the wall will take eight weeks to build. A further two weeks will be required for associated drainage works.

At the bottom of the Paddy's Path hillside, work has begun to extend the existing concrete retaining wall 25m further north toward Separation Creek along the Great Ocean Road. Drilling is underway to install steel posts which will carry concrete sections to form the retaining wall.

The entire wall will be dressed in a Gabian rock fascia, comprising light basalt rock, local to the area. Crews have this week begun fixing and filling the wire baskets to the wall.

In April, soil nailing (anchoring the surface soil with metal rods) and the installation of matting and special netting will begin on the hillside immediately below two Iluka Avenue properties, extending to the bottom of the hillside. A further 150m of Gabian rock wall, about 2.5m tall, will be erected along the upper side of the Great Ocean Road slightly north-east of the existing works.

VicRoads and Fulton Hogan will liaise with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Colac Otway Shire on reinstating Paddy's Path in the slip area.

A single-lane closure is in place at the construction site with only minor delays. VicRoads intends to reopen both lanes for the Easter holiday period.



Work begins on the Gabian rock wall on the Great Ocean Road.

Finalising the Renewal Plan

As the period for providing comments on the Draft Renewal Plan for Wye River and Separation Creek has closed, the write up of the final plan is underway.

The first step in the process will be undertaken by the CRC Community Representatives, we will integrate the comments and suggestions provided by members of the community with the draft Renewal Plan and develop and/or modify it as required.

Following this, the plan will be discussed with the key agencies – EMV, DELWP, COS and Minister Neville.

It is envisaged that the final plan will be ready for release by mid-March.

- Di Sisley, Co-Chair CRC

What's On

CFA Auxiliary Fete

Saturday, 15 April

10am – 1pm

CFA Fire Station

Evaluating the recovery phase

Emergency Management Victoria has engaged Nous Group to conduct an independent evaluation of the recovery phase of the Wye River and Separation Creek bushfires.

Nous will evaluate and explore the recovery activities and experiences of residents, local business owners, community organisations, local and state government and industry.

It will provide recommendations that will be used by EMV and the emergency management sector to continually improve recovery from bushfires in Victoria, build knowledge and understanding of community resilience after an emergency and help the sector to develop a new way of operating through relief and recovery.

Nous will be conducting direct interviews with various community, government and industry representatives this month and, in March, will engage with the broader community to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

More information about the broader community engagement will be provided on wyeseconnect soon.



In late December, the Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group launched the social media campaign 'Wye I Love'. People were invited to share photographs they had taken over Summer in the Wye River and Separation Creek region.

More than 50 beautiful images were submitted through #wyeilove, some of an incredibly high standard. Our local judges, highly qualified in fine art photography and cinematography deliberated for two hours over the images, getting it down to 11, then, after much robust discussion, finally deciding on the top three. Thanks Patch of Patch Media and Denis. Great job on deciding and a huge thanks to all those entered #wyeilove

The winners were:

1st Jane Moriarty sunset

2nd Lana Dacy beach crowd

3rd Jenny Hearne bird

They received a voucher to the Wye General or The Wye Hotel ... FANTASTIC!!

The project was so successful that the Work Group are now planning to launch 'Wye Winter'

which will capture images of the region over those stormy winter months.

An exhibition of the photographs is planned over the coming months so stay tuned.

#wyeilove

Reticulated drainage update

The tender for suitably qualified stormwater design engineers has been advertised with tenders closing on Wednesday 1 March. A team of designers will be appointed shortly after.

The designers will be available to take input from the community regarding stormwater management issues in Wye River and Separation Creek.

Further information regarding the consultation process will be available once the tender process is finalised.

Undergrounding power

The Planning, Building & Fire Work Group has been working with Powercor, DELWP and COS to brief property owners in Bass Avenue and Iluka Avenue on the options available for power restoration in their precincts, namely conventional poles and wire or underground cable. Following a public meeting of Iluka Avenue property owners in Richmond last November, Powercor has provided costings to enable a final decision to be taken on the preferred option to enable reconnection works to commence in March.

- **Ian Angus, Chair Planning, Building & Fire Work Group**

Stanway Drive update

Council contractors this week began the final placement of pavement on the Stanway Drive hill, with asphaltting scheduled for next week.

A new guard rail is also being installed on the steep curve off Iluka Ave this week.

Work in road reserves

As construction of new houses increases, it is important that property owners work with council to ensure that all works in road reserves are undertaken with the proper permits and approvals in place. If you are considering undertaking works in a road reserve please contact Council for the appropriate forms and submit your permit application accordingly.