

Community Resilience Newsletter

Wye River Fire

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE

WYE RIVER | SEPARATION CREEK

7 MARCH 2017

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

March community meetings

Community meetings will be held in Wye River and Melbourne in March to discuss upcoming renewal projects and the Community Renewal Plan.

Representatives from Colac Otway Shire, VicRoads and DELWP will be presenting the latest project information and be on hand to answer questions.

Di Sisley will also present on the Community Renewal Plan.

Dates and venues are as follows:

Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club

Saturday, 25 March

10.30am – Noon

followed by a community lunch

Treasury Theatre

1 Macarthur St, Melbourne

Thursday, 30 March

6pm-7.30pm

Caring for native birds

There are more than 800 types of native animals in Victoria, and many of these are unique to our state. DELWP and Parks Victoria, along with Wye River and Separation Creek community members would like to remind all residents and visitors to the area that feeding or handling native wildlife is not permitted and can be harmful to both wildlife and human health.

Recently, some native parrot species have shown symptoms of ill health. DELWP ask that residents do not feed or handle any native wildlife, particularly species of parrot - such as lorikeets, parakeets, rosellas and cockatoos.

To make a positive identification of any potential disease in birds, Agriculture Victoria vets need to conduct post-mortem analysis on any suspected infected birds. If you find a deceased parrot, please report its location to Tegan Brown – Project Officer Bushfire Recovery on 0429 203 472. Do not handle or move the bird.

For more information, click [here](#) to follow the link to the DELWP website.

Know your weeds

Join weed control contractor Chris Callahan of Tree Management Services on Saturday March 11 at 2pm and learn how to recognise and control our local weeds.

Meet at the Wye River Fire Station for an hour's weed identification walk-around, followed by afternoon tea and a Q & A session.

Remember to wear suitable footwear, sunscreen, hat etc.

No need to book - just turn up at 2pm!

This is an initiative of the CRC Flora, Fauna & Beachscape Work Group, supported by Colac-Otway Shire.

What's On in March

Know your weeds workshop

Saturday, 11 March

2pm-4pm

Wye River Fire Station

Wye River Community Meeting

Saturday, 25 March

10.30am – Noon

Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club

Melbourne Community Meeting

Thursday, 30 March

6pm-7.30pm

Treasury Theatre, 1 Macarthur Street, Melbourne

Planned burns

Community members may see some bright green overalls around Wye River on Wednesday 8 March, if Forest Fire Management Victoria crews have the opportunity to undertake a planned burn at the Kennett Wye Jeep Track, in partnership with the CFA

The burn is 304 hectares in size and will provide a high level of localized protection of human life, property and assets for the Kennett River community.

Traffic management will be in place with speed restrictions along the Great Ocean Road. VMS boards will be in place along the Great Ocean Road, Skenes Creek and Lorne before, during and after the burn, with an information point established in Kennett River.

Planned burns can only go ahead if weather conditions are suitable, so plans can change.

Community members can stay up to date on planned burns by checking [here](#); by downloading the VicEmergency app or by calling the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Trees on Council land

Council will shortly begin removing the trees identified as hazardous as part of the ENSPEC independent assessment late last year.

Following the assessment, 23 trees were identified as requiring removal in the short term, and about 15 trees require some management (such as pruning) but will not be removed.

A summary report is available on Wyeseconnect. A map detailing individual trees is now available on the Colac-Otway Shire website. It can be viewed [here](#).

Council committed to removing the trees after the peak period to minimize disruption to the community.

If a tree adjacent your property is earmarked for removal we will contact you before it is removed.

Works are expected to start in late March and no tree removal work is planned for the Easter weekend.

Rates due

Just a reminder that Council rates are now due for all 2016/17 rates and all those who had their 2015/16 rates deferred.

All residents who had dwellings destroyed by the Christmas Day fires had their rates waived for 2015/16. The rate notices for these properties in 2016/17 are based on the land value for these sites.

Those property owners who still had restricted access to their dwellings or limited access to utilities as at June 30, 2016 also received payment extensions for their 2015/16 rates. These property owners were separately notified of this. These rates were due on 15 February 2017, along with the 2016/17 rates.

Those who have not paid will receive a reminder notice in the mail.

Property owners who require assistance to pay their rates can also apply for hardship consideration. A link to the application form can be found [here](#) or phone Colac Otway on (03) 5232 9400.