

GORCC Talk

Your fortnightly Great Ocean Road Coast Committee update

5 March 2009



It's been all hands on deck over the past fortnight as we gear up for the coming Labour Day long weekend, which is expected to be another busy time for our caravan parks and along the coast. We've also made progress in many other areas of our work, as you will read below. (Note that some of the following snippets contain links to more information, which you can access just by clicking on the headline or highlighted text.)

[Two new business plans in the pipeline](#)

Work is underway on finalising new five-year business plans for our coastal reserves and commercial business areas. When complete, the plans will provide GORCC with a longer term, more strategic coastal management approach – in line with the new [Victorian Coastal Strategy](#) – and guide how we manage our coastal Crown land reserves between Torquay and Lorne, including in terms of allocating resources, effort and appropriate coastal-based activities.

While much of the day-to-day work will remain the same, the combination of new issues (e.g. climate change) with ongoing ones (e.g. the need to improve our caravan parks) will strongly influence how we operate in future.

The draft business plans were recently endorsed by GORCC's sub-committees with further work now underway on finalising budgets for the committee's approval. Once completed, summary versions of the new business plans will be available from June 2009.

[Review places local Coastal Action Plans under the microscope](#)

The Western Coastal Board's 2009 Review of Coastal Action Plans (CAP) recently provided an opportunity for GORCC, among other stakeholders, to provide feedback into how the plans have performed and contributed to coastal planning.

Such plans are critical to delivering the *Victorian Coastal Strategy* at the local and regional level. Over the past decade, GORCC (and predecessors) has implemented many key actions in the Lorne (1998) and Anglesea (1999) CAPs while ongoing strategic actions (e.g. protecting native vegetation) are the focus of more recent initiatives, such as our *Environment and Land Management Plan* (2005) and the forthcoming *Native Vegetation and Weed Control Action Plan*.

The CAP review outcomes are expected to unpin the next decade of coastal planning and management of Victorian's west coast, particularly in light of the new *Victorian Coastal Strategy* released late last year. From our perspective, the establishment of an effective, coordinated and resourced mechanism to implement the new strategy is critical. Based on our coastal management work, there are plenty of challenges for the future.

[Reducing fire risk](#)

We recently completed slashing works along the Francis Street edge of Lorne's Queens Park to reduce fire risk. This involved using a machine to mulch thickets of environmental weeds, such as pittosporum and broom, along a 30-50 metre wide strip next to the road, which is a similar approach to that used by Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment in Fuel

Reduction Zones around other coastal towns.

[Take care around trees](#)

The combination of prolonged drought, high temperatures and recent extreme weather has had a severe impact on many of our native eucalypts and other trees along the coast, which increases the risk of trees dropping branches or toppling over. Consequently, GORCC would like to remind you to take particular care around trees and to avoid parking, camping or sheltering under trees for prolonged periods.

[Our estuaries to receive some TLC](#)

Estuaries along the Great Ocean Road will soon benefit from various works to be undertaken by GORCC with funding provided by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA). These include weed control and revegetation works at Cumberland River, St George River, Erskine River and Painkalac Creek. We will also work closely with the CCMA to interpret natural and cultural values at the St George River and Painkalac Creek estuaries.

[Lorne's Tramway Track to extend](#)

Lorne's award winning Tramway Track is soon to be extended to the Lorne Pier, which will make it easier to find and follow for visitors not familiar with its current starting point off Hird Street. It is also in keeping with the original timber tramway track, which ran directly onto the pier. The track will cross the Great Ocean Road at Hird Street at a crossing approved by VicRoads. A new trailhead and parking area will be established close to the toilet block near Shelly Beach.

[Surf Coast Walk takes another step forward](#)

GORCC is working with Surf Coast Shire and other partners to prepare a funding application to extend and upgrade the Surf Coast Walk. This follows the completion of a feasibility study in April 2008, which identified a range of economic, social and environmental benefits, and outlined a proposed route for a continuous walking track along the coastline between Torquay and Lorne. Watch this space!

[Click here to apply for a \\$1,000 GORCC Coastal Grant](#)

Just a reminder that applications for the first round of our 2009 Coastal Grants program close on Tuesday 31 March 2009.

[Coast needs to be considered in Spring Creek decision](#)

The proposed Spring Creek development in Torquay has certainly generated a lot of interest and concern among the local community. The proposal relates to a draft framework plan outlining how some 700 hectares west of Duffields Road might be developed to accommodate about 12,000 to 14,000 new residents over the next 30 years.

Clearly this is a complex and challenging proposal. From our perspective, we have been arguing that more people - whether residents of Torquay or Armstrong Creek, or visitors along the Great Ocean Road - means more coastal issues to manage. Consequently, the needs of the coast should be considered as part of any decision-making process.

With the public submission process now closed, we await the Surf Coast Shire Council's decision on 22 April 2009 with great interest.

[Contribute to rebuilding Victoria's bushfire affected areas](#)

GORCC has joined employees to collectively donate \$800 to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal,

matching staff members' donations with a \$400 donation from the organisation. As the recovery and rebuilding process starts to get underway, donations can still be made to the [Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal](#).

[Torquay campers clean up](#)

More than 130 campers turned up on Sunday 1 March 2009 to participate in the inaugural Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park campers' clean up day. Enthusiastic participants of all ages helped remove weeds, trim branches, clean up rubbish and pick up cigarette butts from designated areas within the caravan park. Their efforts were rewarded by a barbecue lunch afterwards.

The day was judged a great success by all concerned in terms of helping to eradicate environmental weeds, such as agapanthus, and raising campers' awareness of the need to plant local native plant species. Hats off to GORCC member Joe Taylor, who originally suggested the idea, and to Torquay Concerned Campers Committee representatives and GORCC employees who worked together to make it happen. Plans are now afoot for a similar event next year.

[Latest 'Hoodie' update](#)

It's been a while since we've heard from our Point Roadknight 'hoodies'. As the Hooded Plover breeding season draws to a close in the next few weeks, the good news is that a pair has been sighted incubating two eggs on the southern side of Point Roadknight. The nest is well inside the 'no dogs' zone and is highlighted by large signs. As this has been a particularly bad year for our 'hoodies', with several failed nests in the area, we've got our fingers crossed. Point Roadknight is a critical breeding site for this vulnerable bird species with their survival on the Victorian coast continuing to hang in the balance.

[Check out what's happening on the coast](#)

This Saturday 7 March sees the Torquay Foreshore Festival on Elephant Walk, with some proceeds helping people affected by the bushfires, while Airey's Inlet Community Hall hosts the Annual Arts Exhibition. The Anglesea Riverbank Market and Airey's Inlet Community Market both take place on Sunday 8 March while next Sunday, 15 March, Torquay's monthly Cowrie Community Craft Market again hits Elephant Walk. Check out our coastal calendar to see what else is happening over the coming weeks.

[Check out our latest *Coast News* newsletter](#)

Our latest *Coast News* newsletter contains heaps of information about our coastal management, caravan park and other initiatives. If you would like to join our mailing list to receive a hard copy, please send your details to us via email (info@gorcc.com.au).

[Visit our website](#)

Our website contains more information about our organisation and the work we do. See you again next edition!

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is appointed by the Victorian Government to manage 37 kilometres of Crown land foreshore reserves along the Great Ocean Road between Torquay and Lorne. Our work includes the protection of natural and cultural values along the coast, operation and maintenance of coastal assets, infrastructure and facilities, and the running of caravan parks in Torquay and Lorne. Our vision is a coast loved, protected and enjoyed by all.

GORCC Talk is produced fortnightly to keep you better informed about our work and coastal issues in general. If you know of others who might be interested in receiving *GORCC Talk*, please send their email addresses to info@gorcc.com.au so we can add them to our mailing list. If you no longer wish to receive *GORCC Talk*, please reply with 'Remove Me' in the subject field. Thanks.