

GORCC Talk

Your fortnightly Great Ocean Road Coast Committee update

14 May 2009



Fantastic new camping opportunities will be available in the Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park from next summer, which will make the park accessible to more families and visitors during our busiest time. Use this [link](#) to find out more and read our story below for other news about improvements soon to get underway at the park. Don't forget to keep reading to discover what else we've been up to recently. (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.)

[Improvements afoot at Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park](#)

Planned improvements at the Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park during this winter represent stage one of a major upgrade for the park to be undertaken over the next two years. Costing more than \$750,000, works to be completed in 2009 include construction of one new amenity block, replacement of a number of ageing cabins and improvements to the playground and other park assets.

Further works – including upgrades to power, sullage, gas, water and road infrastructure across the park – are proposed to commence in 2010.

The stage one works also include a new ballot process for casual camp sites over the busy summer period, which aims to provide a more equitable opportunity for both existing and new campers to stay in the park during the peak summer season.

Applications from previous campers will automatically go into the ballot while prospective new campers are being invited – via a series of newspaper advertisements currently underway – to submit booking applications for the 2009/2010 summer ballot by 30 June 2009.

To find out more about the ballot process and download a booking application form for next summer, please visit the [Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park](#) website.

[Have your say on Point Grey and Slaughterhouse](#)

We're holding a series of workshops in early June 2009 to obtain community and stakeholder input to the Point Grey and Slaughterhouse masterplan. The three workshops will focus on listening to, understanding, aligning and inspiring the community, business and other stakeholders to consider the essence of and future visions for these two iconic Lorne sites.

Participants will include the local community, holiday makers and visitors, local community groups (e.g. LorneCH, Lorne Community Association, Friends of Lorne, Friends of Queens Park, LorneCARE, Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club) and local businesses and traders.

It is hoped a shared vision can be developed at the workshops to inform the draft masterplan, which will be prepared in the coming months and released for further consultation later this year.

The project consultants will also hold informal discussions with a range of community and business representatives and consult key local and state government representatives. A survey will target visitors in Lorne over the June long weekend with an online survey also available on the GORCC

website from mid-May 2009.

Anyone who wishes to submit comments about the Point Grey and Slaughterhouse sites, or who is unable to attend one of the workshops in June, is welcome to write to the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (Postal address: PO Box 53 Torquay VIC 3228 Email: info@gorcc.com.au).

Shire's new Sustainable Futures program should benefit our coast

Following Surf Coast Shire Council's recent decision to abandon the draft Spring Creek Urban Growth Framework Plan, we're very interested in the Shire's new *Sustainable Futures – Torquay Jan Juc 2040* initiative.

Like many in the community, we see this initiative as providing an important opportunity to be involved in an integrated and comprehensive process to consider the future growth and development of Torquay and Jan Juc.

As the organisation responsible for managing 37 kilometres of Crown land reserves along the coast between Torquay and Lorne, we're concerned about ensuring the sustainable management of the coast – and implicit in this is sustainably managing the growth of places like Torquay.

Rapid population growth in coastal areas, which encompasses resident and visitor populations, is one of three critical issues identified in the 2008 *Victorian Coastal Strategy* as requiring specific attention. Consideration of this strategy, along with other coastal-related research and planning initiatives, will therefore be essential to ensuring the proposed *Sustainable Futures* program achieves positive outcomes for the coast and the community.

GORCC looks forward to working closely with the Shire and the community towards this end.

Online survey now closed

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent survey by providing feedback that will help us to discover where we need to improve our performance, including how we communicate with you, and to identify the coastal issues of most concern to our community.

The survey has now closed and the results are currently being analysed. We will be contacting the three randomly-drawn winners of the \$50 gift card prizes over the next week and also inviting a number of locally-based respondents to attend a session in early June. This session aims to provide an opportunity to discuss the preliminary survey results with a view to exploring in more detail the key issues raised and ideas for addressing them through our future activities.

Following these discussions, a comprehensive report will be prepared outlining the research findings and recommended future actions to address the key issues raised. Stay tuned!

Free safety leadership training for coastal volunteers

Over the next 12 months, the Department of Sustainability and the Environment will be tightening arrangements around unsupervised volunteer activities on coastal Crown land. This includes requiring all volunteer groups to have at least one person present at each working bee who has participated in DSE's Occupational Health and Safety volunteer training workshop.

The next OH&S volunteer training workshop will be held on Saturday 30 May 2009 from 9.30am to 2pm at Peppers The Sands Resort, Torquay. The workshop is free with morning tea and lunch provided and all participants receiving a free family pass to Melbourne Aquarium (valid for 12 months).

All local groups involved in volunteer activities on coastal Crown land are strongly encouraged to send at least one representative along. For groups that have not participated before, DSE is

recommending that two representatives attend.

All attendees must register by Monday 18 May 2009. For more information and to register, please contact Dianne Moore (Ph: 5226 4669 Email: dianne.moore@dse.vic.gov.au).

Tackling Sea Spurge – the bane of our coast!

Sea spurge is a toxic, highly invasive weed commonly found in sand dunes along southern Victoria's coastline. Originally from Europe, its presence in coastal areas adversely affects native flora and fauna, including our beloved Hooded Plovers, by disrupting important ecological processes.

The recently-formed Spurge Purge Action Group (SPAG) is combining the resources of the Surf Coast Inland Plains Landcare Network, LorneCare and the Southern Otway Landcare Network in an effort to control the spread of this toxic weed along the coast from Barwon Heads to Marengo.

GORCC is assisting by undertaking a spray program between Point Impossible and St George River while the Southern Otway Landcare Network and Apollo Bay to Kennett River Foreshore Committee of Management are working together on a similar program between Kennett River and Skenes Creek. SPAG itself is actively working on controlling sea spurge between Skenes Creek and Marengo. All of this is working towards the end of Sea Spurge along the Great Ocean Road coast.

For more information about Sea Spurge and SPAG itself, please contact Michael Callanan from LorneCare (Ph: 0408 891 886) or Greg John from the Surf Coast Inland Plains Landcare Network (Ph: 5266 1707). Let's purge our coast of the scourge of spurge!

No better time for a camping holiday on the Great Ocean Road

With a range of attractive special winter offers including free nights, there's no time like the present to book a holiday at our Torquay or Lorne foreshore caravan parks, particularly with Lorne recently being rated as one of Australia's top 20 tourism destinations by *Australian Traveller* magazine.

- Discover [Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park's special offers](#) and [book online](#), or
- Find out more about [Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park's current specials](#) and [book online](#).

Happy holidays!

Autumn Coast News out now

The Autumn edition of our *Coast News* newsletter (Adobe PDF 839 KB) contains a wealth of information about recent and upcoming GORCC initiatives and coastal-related issues.

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.