

GORCC Talk

Your fortnightly Great Ocean Road Coast Committee update

22 January 2009



Welcome to our first *GORCC Talk* for 2009. The new year may only be three weeks old but we're predicting another busy one. As you will read in this edition, we've already made progress on several major projects while our caravan parks and coastal reserves teams have again gone 'above and beyond' to meet the challenges traditionally presented by this time of the year. Read all about it below! (Note that some of the following snippets contain links to more information on our website, which you can access just by clicking on the headline.)

[Latest news on Fisherman's Beach redevelopment](#)

It felt like Christmas all over again this week when the State Government announced it would contribute \$750,000 towards the redevelopment of Torquay's Fisherman's Beach precinct. Local Member for South Barwon Michael Crutchfield made the announcement on Wednesday 21 January at the Torquay Angling Club. The \$2.9 million redevelopment project will deliver a brand new, purpose-built community, tourism and recreation facility that is expected to become a major beachfront drawcard for locals and visitors alike.

[Caravan park upgrade update](#)

As the peak summer season starts to wind down from next week, an open letter was this week issued to campers to update them on what's been happening over the past two months in relation to our plans to upgrade the Torquay and Lorne foreshore caravan parks.

The upgrade project has moved several steps closer to realisation with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) recently approving the masterplans, as required under the *Coastal Management Act*.

With the State Government releasing the new *Victorian Coastal Strategy* in December 2008, the committee is currently considering how to implement the policy pertaining to caravan parks, which seeks to 'Discourage long-term exclusive occupancy (more than 12 months) of coastal caravan and camping sites'.

We are currently preparing the necessary applications to seek State Government approval to borrow funds for the project and have completed preliminary design works and ordered final drawings in preparation for works and tender processes commencing once funding arrangements have been confirmed.

[Masterplan to provide a vision for Lorne's Point Grey/Slaughterhouse](#)

Work will soon start on preparing a masterplan to guide the redevelopment of the Point Grey and Slaughterhouse sites in Lorne. We are currently assessing submissions received through a recent expressions of interest process, with a view to engaging an appropriately skilled and

experienced contractor who will work with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC), Lorne community and other stakeholders to develop the masterplan. Consultation will be critical to the plan's development.

Work gets underway on North Lorne foreshore's 'natural facelift'

Lorne residents, particularly those whose homes overlook the Great Ocean Road between the Erskine River mouth and Stirling Street, will notice work starting next week on an important project that aims to restore the North Lorne foreshore's natural environment. GORCC received a \$5,000 donation for these works from the *Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function*, a group of scientists that has met annually in Lorne since 1976 and wanted to put something back into the area.

More seals on beaches – why is it so?

This summer has seen an unusually large number of seals turning up on our beaches alive, dead, injured or sick. Although it is quite common at this time of year to see seals on the beach, the recent increase in seal sightings is being investigated by Melbourne Zoo, in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), to determine the possible cause/s. If you sight a resting, injured or dead seal on the beach, please contact 5233 5569/136 186 (DSE) or 9285 9300 (Melbourne Zoo) to report it.

As resting or injured seals may often remain on a beach for several days before returning to the sea, anyone sighting one should stay at least 50 metres away to avoid unduly stressing the animal and to help protect it.

From our Coastal Reserves team

- Congratulations to our coastal reserves team and contractors for a job well done over the peak summer period. While they work hard all year round, the past few weeks have seen everyone go 'above and beyond' to ensure our coast is maintained at a high standard.
- New Years Eve went particularly well due to the implementation of a range of improvements recommended by local Community Impact Advisory Committees. The amount of broken glass on our beaches was significantly less than in previous years while LorneCare and the Torquay Lions Club again provided invaluable help with the 'morning after' clean up, which was greatly appreciated.
- Recent works undertaken in the Anglesea area include resealing the Point Roadknight car park entry roundabout, removing overgrown ti-tree near the surf life saving club and general maintenance, including mowing and brush cutting.
- In Lorne, a number of vandalised trampoline mats have been replaced while the Lorne Pool has seen its resident ducks relocated (with DSE's permission) to make way for the annual summer influx of keen human pool users. We also installed extra seating at Lorne Pier in time for the summer crowds and continue to conduct weekly safety checks of the pier and the viewing platforms at Teddy' Lookout.

From our caravan parks

Both our Torquay and Lorne foreshore caravan parks have been running at full capacity since Boxing Day with no major problems reported although Torquay has seen a significant increase

in vandalism this season.

As reported in local media just before Christmas, vandals caused extensive damage to more than 20 caravans in the lead-up to peak season with the incident still under police investigation. Since then, many of the mirrors in the park's amenity blocks have been subjected to the latest form of graffiti, called 'etching', along with the usual ripping out of soap dispensers and the like. Rubbish is also proving to be a more of a problem this season.

Despite these hiccups, New Years Eve went well with campers commenting how 'safe' they felt, Generally, most campers in both Torquay and Lorne have been very relaxed and pleasant to deal with. Despite the cooler temperatures and very ordinary weather throughout most of January, everything continues to run well due to the hard work and effort of both parks' employees who continue to do their usual sterling jobs.

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

This coming Australia Day long weekend will be busier than ever with a range of activities taking place on our coast. Lorne's foreshore will be a hive of activity with the Lorne Seaside Market on Saturday 24 January followed by the Lions Market on Sunday 25 January. The Airey's Inlet Community Market and Anglesea Riverbank Market are both sure to attract the crowds on Sunday 25 January while the Havaianas Thong Challenge, at Torquay on Monday 26 January, sees a world record attempt for the longest line of inflatable air beds in the water. 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.