

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phew! Coast sighs with relief this week while GORCC thanks its carers

After one of the busiest summers in recent memory, the coast along the Great Ocean Road between Torquay and Lorne let out a sigh of relief this week that was almost palpable according to the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC).

“It’s been a massive summer for our coast with huge numbers of holiday makers and visitors enjoying all that our region offers in the way of relaxation and recreation, tourism, major events and other coastal attractions,” said GORCC Chief Executive Officer David Clarke today.

“The number of people along the coast during December and January certainly put increased pressure on our beaches, car parks, toilets and other coastal facilities throughout the holidays. It was therefore no surprise to almost hear the coast breathing a sigh of relief on Monday as many people returned to work and the 2010 school year started,” he stated.

Mr Clarke said that, despite the added pressures, the coast had generally coped well with the summer hordes thanks to the efforts of GORCC employees and many others who had played a role in helping to look after the coast during its busiest time.

“Our outdoor works team did a sterling job working from dawn seven days a week to ensure beaches, foreshore areas and facilities were clean, and any damage repaired so that beachgoers could experience a safe and enjoyable time,” explained Mr Clarke.

“With our caravan parks in Torquay and Lorne both fully booked from Boxing Day right through to just after Australia Day, our caravan parks crew also did a first-rate job to ensure campers enjoyed their stay with us.

“In addition, many coastal volunteers, community groups, local residents and others did their bit to help care for the coast, for example by picking up their rubbish – and often rubbish left by others,” he said.

“To everyone who played a role in looking after the coast this summer - no matter how big or small – on behalf of GORCC and the coast, I say a very big and heartfelt thank you.

“As more and more people visit and use the coast, we will all need to ensure that we do what we can to respect and care for the coast, and to minimise our negative human impacts on our beautiful, precious natural coastal environment,” Mr Clarke concluded.

[CONTINUED NEXT PAGE]

Caring for the coast and community

PO Box 53, Torquay, Vic 3228
Phone: 03 5220 5055 Fax: 03 5264 7763

Email: info@gorcc.com.au Web: www.gorcc.com.au

GORCC is responsible for the long-term and day-to-day management, care, protection and appropriate development of Crown land coastal reserves between Torquay and Lorne on behalf of the local community and the wider Victorian community.

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For media enquiries please contact:

David Clarke

Chief Executive Officer,

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee

Ph: 5220 5055; 0417 354 707

Email: david.c@gorcc.com.au

Website: www.gorcc.com.au