

Media Release



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Patrols on wheels reaching further afield

Surf Coast Shire Council and Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) Rangers are taking their all-terrain vehicle further afield this summer to help maintain safe and friendly beaches.

Joint patrols in the vehicle from Boxing Day will have an increased focus on beaches including Lorne, and Point Roadknight.

Rangers will be aiming to ensure locals and visitors are mindful of observing regulations while having fun enjoying the natural environment.

Council and GORCC introduced the all-terrain vehicle last summer but its use focused on Torquay beaches.

Purchase of a trailer for transporting the vehicle will allow it to be taken further afield this summer.

“The vehicle proved to be really effective in giving our rangers increased visibility and mobility on our beaches, particularly during peak times,” Surf Coast Shire Council Deputy Mayor and Lorne ward councillor Clive Goldsworthy said.

“This summer people can expect to see it in use frequently on patrols at Lorne, and other areas like Point Roadknight and Moggs Creek where we have populations of vulnerable hooded plovers which need protection from off-leash dogs.

“Rangers will be reminding people about dog and horse regulations and protection of wildlife, dunes and vegetation.”

GORCC chairman Ken Northwood urged beachgoers to respect other people, and the environment.

“If you’re enjoying our beautiful coast, please make sure you do the right thing – this includes observing dog regulations, taking your litter home, and staying out of the dunes,” Mr Northwood said.

Council and GORCC Rangers will patrol together in the two-seat vehicle.

Their public safety focus will include monitoring of smoking, which is banned on Surf Coast beaches, and lighting of fires, which is not permitted in coastal reserves.