

# Wilsons Promontory National Park Stakeholder Flood Recovery Update No. 8 - August 2011

## The Countdown Begins...

### Tidal River set to reopen

We're delighted to announce that a reopening date has been set for Tidal River just in time for the September school holidays.



Deputy Premier Peter Ryan with Parks Victoria regional manager Chris Rose

At a press conference held at Tidal River, Deputy Premier and Member for Gippsland South, the Hon Peter Ryan MP officially announced that Tidal River would reopen to the public on Friday, September 23.

### Promontory Road advisory

The roadblock on Promontory Rd will remain in place until Tidal River reopens therefore Promontory Road south of the roadblock remains closed until September 23. While major road works are nearly complete, the closure will allow minor road works to continue and enable heavy vehicles and machinery to access Tidal River to undertake necessary works without interference.

### The Countdown Begins

With just five weeks to go until Tidal River village and selected walking tracks are reopened, Parks Victoria staff and contractors are working full steam ahead to ensure that visitor services are up and running and safely accessible by our reopening day.

At Tidal River, recovery and maintenance works are in full swing. Refurbishments to the Tidal River Visitor Centre and flood damaged accommodation are running to schedule and flood damaged underground electrical cable replacements and stormwater drain upgrades are nearly complete. Planting and reseeding works are also being undertaken in the campground.

Out in the park, the Tracks team have been working hard to complete flood recovery works on the Lilly Pilly Gully Nature walk and the Tidal Overlook track to Squeaky Beach.

### Three Cheers for VicRoads

It's been a really solid partnership between Parks Victoria and VicRoads and come rain, hail or shine, VicRoads contractors have been plugging away, often in less than favourable conditions to ensure that both the Darby River bridge repairs and the Darby Saddle road works are completed in a timely manner to allow Tidal River to reopen on schedule.

### The Visitor Experience at Tidal River

The visitor to Tidal River will be able to see first hand the extraordinary flood recovery efforts that Parks Victoria staff and contractors have made to get the campground open.

### Visitor Services

The Visitor Centre will be open and Parks Victoria Information Officers will be on hand to assist with any visitor enquiries. The Tidal River Store will remain closed until Melbourne Cup weekend however basic supplies will be available to visitors.

We'll also be running an exciting interpretation program and Junior Ranger activities over the September school holidays.



Lilly Pilly Gully



Norman Beach, Tidal River

### Short Walks and Beach Access

Visitors will be able to access Norman Beach, Tongue Point and Fairy Cove and some favourite walking tracks in the Tidal River precinct including:

- Lilly Pilly Gully
- South Norman beach
- Squeaky Beach (via Picnic Bay or Lilly Pilly Gully car park and Tidal Overlook )
- Picnic Bay

Walks in the northern prom will also be open.

## Camping and accommodation

### Camping

Avenues 1 - 6 will be available for bookings providing 250 campsites for visitors. All other campsites within Tidal River will be available from 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### Accommodation

The Group Lodges, Eco cabins, Wilderness Retreats and Motorhuts will be available from September 23 until the summer ballot period commences on December 24. All current bookings for roofed accommodation will remain in place with the exception of the Lorikeet Units.

### Lorikeet Units

Due to the extent of flood damage, we are currently investigating new sites to rebuild the Lorikeet units at Tidal River and are waiting on planning processes and approvals before work commences on the relocation.

Guests with Lorikeet unit bookings from September 23rd to December 23rd will have the opportunity to transfer their booking to other types of accommodation (subject to availability). If we are unable to provide roofed accommodation for the same dates, the guest may either select a new date or cancel their reservation and obtain a full refund.

### Existing Bookings

All bookings up to September 23 have been cancelled and full refunds have been offered.

All existing camping and accommodation bookings (with the exception of the Lorikeet units) for the remainder of 2011, the summer ballot period and 2012 remain in place.

### New Bookings

Camping and accommodation bookings from September 23 to December 23, 2011 (with the exception of the Melbourne Cup weekend) can be made from 9am on Monday 22 August.

Bookings for the Melbourne Cup Weekend will open on September 21 in line with the usual Peak Season Applications process.

Visitors can book camping and accommodation for 2012 from September 7, 2010.

### Further Information

For further information please refer to the attached *Wilsons Promontory National Park Visitor Guide* and *Walking at the Prom* parknotes.

## What will remain closed?

Walking tracks in the southern prom, all overnight hiking tracks, Squeaky Beach and Whisky Bay car parks and beach access tracks, Darby River beach access track, Cotters Lake, Pillar Point, Picnic Point, Mt Bishop and Mt Oberon will remain closed until scheduled repair works are undertaken to ensure that tracks are safely accessible. Mt Oberon Rd also remains closed until necessary road repairs have been carried out.

### Tidal River Watercourse

Due to changed river conditions, in the interests of public safety, access to the Tidal River watercourse will not be permitted until further notice.

The closure includes the river, river mouth, river access tracks, Tidal River Bridge, Tidal River boat ramp, Loo-Errn boardwalk and fishing platforms and all walks departing from Tidal River Bridge.

### Boating

Due to safety concerns, boat launching will not be permitted from Tidal River and Norman Bay until further notice.

### Wildflower Walks in the North

Places for our free guided Wildflower Walks are filling up fast! The ranger guided walks will be held on the following days:

- Saturday September 3rd @ 2pm
- Sunday September 4th @ 2pm
- Saturday September 17th @ 2pm
- Sunday September 18th @ 2pm

For bookings and enquiries please phone 13 1963.

### Volunteer with Friends of the Prom!

For those keen to help with flood recovery works, the Friends of the Prom are coordinating voluntary flood recovery works and have the following days scheduled:

**September 10 and 11:** Planting out mature nursery stock in Tidal River. Also drainage and pruning works on the Picnic Bay access track and the link track from Picnic to Squeaky Beach.

**October 22 and 23:** Pruning and drainage works on the Loo Errn Track from Tidal River bridge to Tidal Block.

**November 19 and 20:** Hooded Plover monitoring. Also in conjunction with Bushwalking Victoria, maintenance work on the "northern circuit" tracks.

For further information please contact Friends of the Prom President Don Jewell: [dhw@surf.net.au](mailto:dhw@surf.net.au). For further information about the Friends of the Prom visit: [www.friendsoftheprom.org.au](http://www.friendsoftheprom.org.au)

For further information, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963

or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

For information on road closures visit [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)