January 13th, 2009

**THOUSANDS of homes and businesses in the Geelong region have been left without phone services after a contractor cut through major cables yesterday.**

Pockets in Geelong, and as far as Little River and Meredith, were without phones from about lunchtime yesterday when fibre optic and copper cables were accidentally cut.

Telstra Country Wide Geelong's general manager Jodi Manion said crews had been out all night working to fix the problem, and that most customers had now had their phones re-routed.

She said crews would continue to work throughout the day until all services had been restored.

``If there are any Telstra customers still experiencing difficulties, they can call 132 203 and we can organise an interim phone and have their calls diverted to their mobiles,'' Ms Manion said.

She also said the incident should prompt a reminder to all customers and contractors to Dial Before You Dig, by calling 1100.