

Community Newsletter

Southern Hume (Longwood Berry's Lane) Fire 20th January 2026

What is happening now:

Minor fire activity continues to occur within the burnt area. There are still hotspots across the fireground. Unburnt fuel and areas within the fire outline may still be producing fire and smoke. Unless you can see significant columns of smoke or an unattended fire, please don't call 000. Work continues on establishing a safe edge of the fire in the Black Range and Devils River areas. All other areas have minimal fire activity which is behind the fire's edges. Patrolling, extinguishing embers and dangerous tree inspections and removal continues in all areas. The Watch and Act message across the fire area has been downgraded to an Advice-Threat is reduced. 630 firefighting personnel are working on the fire.

Community Information Hubs:

Strathbogie Shire

Euroa Tourist and Information Centre, 50 Binney Street.

Murrindindi Shire

Yea Library, 15 The Semicircle
Alexandra Library, 49 Grant Street.
Yarck Community Hall, 6583 Maroondah Highway
Mansfield Visitor Information Centre, 175 High Street. (Open from Wednesday 21/01/2026).

Ausnet will have staff at Yarck Hall this morning from 10am to 12.00pm.

Ruffy Hall from 10am and Alexandra Library from 1pm until 3.30 to discuss any concerns.

Health checks will be conducted at Highlands Community Hall from 11am to 1pm today. A psychologist will be in attendance on Wednesday morning the 21st. January. At Alexandra Visitor Centre 38 Grant Street.

Road Access and Safety:

Multiple roads are still closed across the fire area and many roads are open for resident access only. Check traffic.transport.vic.gov.au before travelling.

As more roads open proceed with extreme caution to avoid hazards.

If you are driving and pass an emergency vehicle, slow down to 40km – It's the law

Community Pop-up Meetings-Fire Recovery Support:

Emergency Recovery Victoria will be holding a series of community pop-up meetings across fire affected areas to support residents during recovery.

These sessions provide an opportunity to speak directly with recovery staff, access information, ask questions and receive guidance relevant to local needs. No bookings are required.

20th. January

Ruffy Hall, 3 Nolans Road. Ruffy. 9.30am-12.30pm.

Highlands Community Hall. 1603 Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands. 2.00pm – 4pm. **(To be confirmed, may be postponed to later date due to road works).**

21st. January

Fawcett Hall. 655 Spring Creek Road. Fawcett. 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Yarck Town Hall. 6583 Maroondah Highway. Yarck. 2.00pm -4.00pm.

22nd. January.

Longwood Community Centre. Longwood Recreation Reserve. 2A Down Street. Longwood. 9.30am -12.00

Terip Terip Tennis Club. 10 Springs Road. Terip Terip. 1.00pm. -12.3





Returning Home

Emergency Recovery Support Program

Emergency recovery support is available for people directly impacted by the January 2026 fires.

If this emergency has impacted you, it can be hard to know what to do next.

A factsheet has been developed which lists all available support.

www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#january_2026_fires

For help accessing support, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline. **1800 560 760** (9am to 5pm)

- Financial & practical support
- Health & Wellbeing
- Returning home
- Help for farmers
- How to Help

 Sign up for updates to new recovery programs: www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires

Emergency Relief Centre locations

- **Mansfield Sporting Council**

35 Highbett Street. Closes permanently at 4pm today.

- **Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre**

Pollard Street

- **Whittlesea Activity Centre**

57/61 Laurel Street

Monitor your local council's social media and website for more information on recovery.

Register.Find.Reunite register.redcross.org.au

Let friends, family and emergency services know you are safe at or at a relief centres.

Before you return home stock up on basic nonperishable food, bottled water, medications and take protective clothing, boots, gloves and equipment like P2/N95 masks.

www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis

Access to Drinking Water

Goulburn Valley Water has a number of sites.

Fill your own containers, Friendlies Oval, 9 Gobur St. Euroa. Larger volumes can be accessed at

Euroa Standpipe. Bottled water is available at Longwood Rec. Reserve.

15,000L drinking water tank at 2 Nolans Rd. Ruffy.

15,000L tank outside Molesworth hotel.

Emergency drinking water fill points. Euroa (Friendlies Oval), Alexandra (Rotary Park), Yea Recreation Reserve and Bonnie Doon Recreation reserve. Water tanker in Yarck.

These are for all people impacted by Fires, not just GVW customers. GVW is available 24/7 on 1800 454 500.

Each household may be eligible to receive 20,000L of relief drinking water.

Visit www.water.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/news-stories/emergency-relief-drinking-water-2026 to see if you are eligible (and fill out an online form).

For help with the form, call the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on **136 186** - press 0. Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

Free Waste disposal / Tip fees

There are no fees at local waste disposal facilities until 13 May 2026. Show proof of residence, like a driver's license.

Essential Water Replacement

Water used for firefighting can be replaced within 3 months of it being taken from your property. If essential water supplies run out, urgent replacement can be arranged.

Register for water replacement

 Customer call centre **136 186** and press 0.

 emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au


 www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery

Power and Phone

Mobile generators are being installed in some for the worst impacted communities where AusNet may not be able to restore power for some time.

AusNet

 www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages

 Bushfire Support Line on **1300 561 171**.

Ask about payments for prolonged power outages

Telstra

☎ Disaster Support Hotline **1800 888 888**
Extra mobile data has been applied to customers in impacted areas. Telstra can also pause billing for services that cannot be used due to fire.

Wildlife Welfare

☎ Report wildlife impacted by bushfire:
1300 322 060 (Southern Hume (Longwood))

or email iccale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au

Be careful if handling wildlife. Bites, scratches and stings have been reported in recent days.

Fire grounds are dangerous, even after the fire front has passed. Individuals, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups must not enter the fire ground area to search for wildlife.

Agriculture and Livestock



**Victorian
Farmers
Federation**

Emergency services are escorting convoys of residents transporting fodder from the traffic management point on the Goulburn Valley Highway in Yea at 8.30am, 12.30pm and 3.30pm daily.

To request emergency fodder, contact the VFF

☎ 1300 882 833
www.vff.org.au
www.vff.org.au/vff-emergency-fodder-program/



advice.

If you have urgent animal welfare needs, call
☎ **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**
then dial 0 (incident) then 3 (recovery).



Report fire impacts to Agriculture Victoria online to help us direct support efforts where they are needed most.

Please use the Loss and Damage form to report:

- Dead or injured animals
- Crop loss or damage
- Fodder and water needs

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires

For help with the form, call the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on **136 186 and press 0**.
(Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm)

Livestock Disposal

Disposal is managed by the landholder. Agriculture Victoria can support you with guidance, information and technical on **0407 145 007** or by email at livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Before burying livestock, **Dial Before You Dig** by calling **1100** or go to www.byda.com.au to avoid damaging your infrastructure.

Further information and support available at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires




Taking Care of Yourself

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions after a distressing event.

Look out for changes or signs that someone's mental health might be changing.

Help is available through your doctor – request a Medicare Mental Health Plan.

Family Violence

 **1800 737 732** (1800RESPECT)

 Visit www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence

For immediate support, contact:

[Lifeline](http://lifeline.org.au) - 131 114

[Beyond Blue](http://beyondblue.org.au) - 1300 224 636

[MensLine](http://mensline.org.au) - 1300 789 978

[Kid's Help Line](http://kidsline.org.au) - 1800 55 1800

[Parent Line](http://parentline.org.au) - 13 22 89

[National Centre Farmers Health](http://nationalcentrefarmershealth.org.au) - (03) 5551 8533

Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

A free medical service for non-life-threatening emergencies You need a device with a camera
www.vved.org.au

Nurse-on-Call

You can speak to a registered nurse 24 hours a day at on **1300 60 60 24**.

Emergency psychosocial supports guide

The guide to emergency psychosocial supports explains what psychosocial supports are available in emergencies.

www.dffh.vic.gov.au/guide-emergency-psychosocial-support-word

Australian Red Cross practical tips to help you cope physically and mentally after a crisis:

www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis

Stress management

There are techniques available:

www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/what-is-stress#stress-management-techniques

Stay Informed



 VicEmergency Hotline **1800 226 226**

 www.emergency.vic.gov.au

 **Emergency Radio Broadcasters**

Southern Hume (Longwood Fires) UGFM

106.9 - Alexandra / Lake Eildon / Mansfield

88.9 - Yea / Highlands

98.5 - Marysville / Lake Mountain

98.9 - Flowerdale / Hazeldene

94.5 - Kinglake Ranges

Radio Mansfield - 99.7FM

ABC

91.1FM, 97.7FM – Euroa / Seymour

103.7FM – Mansfield


98.1FM – Yea / Highlands

2026 Victorian Bushfire Appeal

If you're looking to help people impacted by the bushfires, go to www.vic.gov.au/2026-victorian-bushfire-appeal

100% of donations go direct to those who need it most for immediate relief, long term recovery efforts, community projects and programs to regenerate wildlife and the environment.

 www.vic.gov.au/2026-victorian-bushfire-appeal

 **1800 837 733 (9am to 5pm)**

Donations of food cannot be accepted, contact the Salvation Army if you wish to donate goods.

Go to www.givit.org.au to donate funds or give specific items people have requested.