

Community Newsletter

Southern Hume (Longwood Berry's Lane) Fires 21st. January 2026

What is happening now:

There is minimal activity in the fire area today. Crews continue to patrol and work on dangerous trees. The fire edge is now 97% contained. Some roads within the fire are reopening as work on dangerous trees has deemed them safe. An Advice – Stay Informed message currently remains over the fire area.

Mobile Relief Support Hubs:

Emergency Recovery Victoria will be holding a series of Mobile Relief Support Hubs 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.

21st January

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

Yarck Town Hall. 6583 Maroondah Highway. Yarck. 2.00pm – 4pm.

22nd. January

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

Terip Terip Tennis Club. 10 Springs Road. Terip Terip. 1.00pm – 3.30pm.

Community Information Hubs:

Strathbogie Shire

Euroa Tourist and Information Centre. 50 Binney St. Euroa.

Murrindindi Shire

Yea Library. 15 The Semicircle. Yea. Alexandra Library. 49 Grant St. Alexandra. Yarck Community Hall. 6583 Maroondah Highway. Yarck.

Mansfield Shire

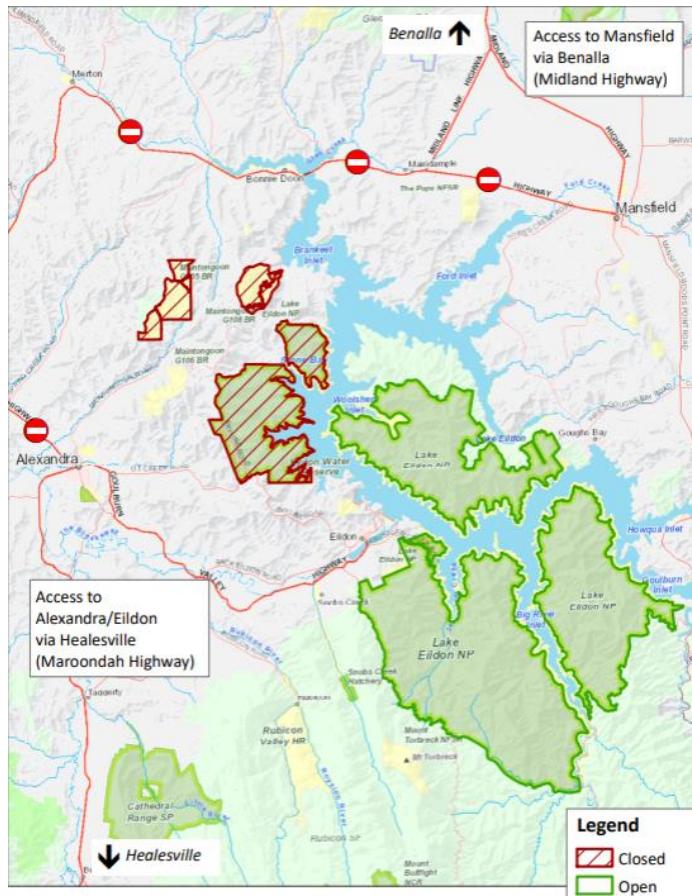
Mansfield Visitor Info. Centre. 175 High St. Mansfield.

Mitchell Shire

Seymour Library. 125 Anzac Ave. Seymour

January 26th. Long Weekend Parks Information:

Cathedral Ranges State Park has reopened. **Lake Eildon National Park** has partially reopened. **Closed areas include Candlebark Campground, Devil Cove and Lakeside Campgrounds, surrounding day visitor areas and boat ramps.** Parks.vic.gov.au for latest information.



Road Access and Safety:

Multiple roads are still closed across the fire area and many roads are open for residents who live within the fire impacted area only.

Check <https://traffic.transport.vic.gov.au> for road closures before travelling.

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

If you are driving and past an emergency vehicle, slow down to 40km – It's the Law.

The next newsletter will be issued on 23rd. January



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

Whittlesea Activity Centre

57/61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea

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 is providing Emergency Drinking Water Relief to communities impacted by fire that are outside their service areas.

Ruffy: opposite the Town Hall.

Yarck: Yarck Recreation Reserve

Molesworth: Outside the CFA shed Hood St.

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**

To request emergency fodder, contact the VFF

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



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 advice. 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://kidshelpline.com.au) - **1800 55 1800**
[Parent Line](http://parentline.vic.gov.au) - **13 22 89**
[National Centre Farmers Health](http://farmershealth.vic.gov.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) UGM

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.