



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

North East Region Office – Benalla
64 Sydney Rd, Benalla Victoria, 3672

The Great Name Debate is over: It's Yogi!

From: Victoria SES NE Region Office Benalla **Date:** 17 June 2015 **Time:** 1pm

VICSES' recent FloodSafe Week has really stirred the pot of debate in the Wangaratta area. Is it Yogi or is it Huckleberry at APEX Park in Wangaratta?

The results of our FloodSafe Week survey are in, and VICSES can advise that the winner is: Yogi!

During FloodSafe week, Wangaratta residents were invited to cast their vote on the [VICSES website](#) to name the friendly cartoon character that sits in APEX Park next to the Ovens River.

Yogi received 75% of the votes, followed by Huckleberry on 20% and Doggy Daddy/Auggie Doggy taking out the remaining 5% (but a very passionate 5% they were!).

Yogi has been a favourite flood landmark and talking point since the big floods of 1993. When it floods in Wangaratta, people ask "Where is it up to on Yogi?" rather than reading the official Bureau of Meteorology flood gauge!

While the survey confirmed the 'official' name, it's prompted further debate, with APEX members advising that after the 1993 floods some of the original play equipment was removed. Is the character that sits in APEX Park today the original Yogi?

"The debate has been a fun way during FloodSafe Week to highlight that floods happen in the North East. It has been a great opportunity for VICSES to engage with flood-prone communities and remind people about the dangers of floodwater and how to be prepared when they happen", said Sue Sheldrick, VICSES Community Resilience Coordinator for the North East region.

"We've launched Wangaratta's new Local Flood Guide to help people get prepared, and the guide will be delivered into the Wangaratta area over the next few months, so Yogi, featured on the front cover will be a great mascot to help promote the guide to the community".

"Many Victorian towns and localities like Wangaratta that lie close to rivers or creeks have a long history of flooding. However, many people are unaware of where exactly floods can happen and just how dangerous and disgusting and floodwater can be. We only need to look to the recent loss of life in the NSW floods to reinforce that floods can be killers".

"This is why VICSES' key safety message remains: **Never enter floodwater: you don't know what you are getting into**", added Sue.

As part of the VICSES name survey, two prize packs, including a wind up torch-radio have been won by Kate and Phil, both from Wangaratta.

For more information about flood safety, how to get prepared, put together an emergency kit or to check out one of the more than 50 local flood guides now available for communities across Victoria visit www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/localfloodinformation or www.facebook.com/vicses.

Vision of Yogi's role as a flood marker during the 2010 floods is available on the [ABC Goulburn Murray website](#).

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The Great Name Debate: Yogi, Huckleberry or Doggie Daddy? You decide!



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