Local Flood Guide
Yarra Glen

Flood information for the Yarra River at Yarra Glen

Yarra Glen

State Government
Victoria
The Yarra Glen local area

Yarra Glen is a rural town located 60 kilometres north east of Melbourne connected primarily to the metropolitan area by the Melba Highway. Yarra Glen is surrounded by large rural and agricultural areas that are home to numerous vineyards and farms.

The township is home to a mix of retail, civic, leisure, recreational and small businesses. Tourism adds significantly to both the traffic and the population of Yarra Glen, with a growing number of related services and businesses developing in the area.

The map below shows the impact of a 1% flood from the Yarra River in Yarra Glen. A 1% flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood up to this size occurring in any year.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Melbourne 774 AM
- Yarra Valley 99.1 FM
- 3AW 693 AM
- FOX 101.9 FM
- NOVA 100.3 FM
- SEN 1116 AM
- Triple M 105.1 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Yarra Ranges Council Contact Details
Phone: 1300 368 333
Email: mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
Web: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au
Your Local Flood Information

Are you at risk of flood?

Yarra Glen sits on the Yarra River at the junction of Steels Creek where the town of Yering is located. Heavy rainfall over a short period of time can cause flash flooding in and around Yarra Glen and Yering, while prolonged rainfall over a number of days or weeks can cause the Yarra River to overflow and flood surrounding areas (see map page 2).

As the towns of Yarra Glen and Yering are located on a floodplain, flooding in the areas is expected to spread and move slowly downstream toward the township of Warrandyte.

Flooding along the Yarra River and its branches can vary from fairly quick rises and falls, especially around Warburton and Healesville to slow water movement with prolonged flooding around Yarra Junction and Yarra Glen.

Did you know?

The Yarra Ranges municipality has a long history of flooding with floods recorded as early as 1891.

The rural township of Yarra Glen has also experienced some major flood events. The photo below shows the November 1934 flood, which reached the site of the current Yarra Glen post office in Bell Street.

More recent incidents were recorded in 1992, 1993, 2004 and 2010. In November 2010 the Yarra Glen Races were cancelled as the roads and race grounds were flooded. The 2011 flood reached 4.77 metres on the Yarra Glen gauge (see table below) and is historically the highest recorded flood level for the area.

In Yarra Glen, the following areas are likely to be affected by flooding:

- Yarra Valley Racing Centre
- Yarra Valley Tourist Railway between Yarra Glen and Healesville Stations
- Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds
- Lilydale Airport may become flooded for a given period
- Roads including the Melba Highway, Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, MacIntyre Lane, Armstrong Grove and other minor roads.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.

![Yarra Glen, 1934 flood](image)

Possible flooding on Melba Highway near Chateau Yering Historic House Hotel

February 2011 flood

At moderate flood level, water starts to flow across Melba Highway between the Lilyponds Creek Bridge, near Chateau Yering Historic House Hotel and Yarra Glen. More sections of the Yarra Valley Racecourse become flooded, Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds are now also flooded.

4.30 m

Possible flooding on Melba Highway near Chateau Yering Historic House Hotel

February 2011 flood

At Minor Flood Level, flooding is likely to start in some parts of the BBQ area entrance to the Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve. Sections of Yarra Glen Racecourse may start to flood, the Yarra Flats Billabongs pedestrian bridge and track could be flooded and Spadoni’s Nature Reserve internal track could be inaccessible due to flooding.

Flood Watch - Weather System Approaching including severe thunderstorm warning that could cause flooding.
About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible flooding.

A Flood Watch means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

A Flood Warning means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings.

A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

■ Reach the top of the river banks.
■ Come up through drains in nearby streets.
■ Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas.
■ Affect some low-lying caravan parks.
■ Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges.
■ Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

■ Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas.
■ Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments.
■ Require evacuation in some areas.
■ Cover main roads.

A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

■ Cause widespread flooding.
■ Threaten more houses and businesses.
■ Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
■ Disrupt major roads and transport routes.
■ Require many evacuations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do during a flood.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by BoM when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

Flash flooding happens quickly. Yarra Glen residents should listen out for warnings with flash flooding and remember that flash flooding:

■ Occurs so fast that it is difficult to provide a detailed warning. Often it arrives without warning.
■ Results from heavy rainfall during short severe storms.

Remember, you may not receive any official warning. Emergency assistance may not be immediately available. Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.

Never wait for a warning to act.

Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Yarra Glen community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

Warnings for Yarra Glen

For the Yarra River, Flood Warnings are issued by BoM. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peaks of the Yarra River.

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak. See page 3: Yarra River Flood Levels at the Yarra Glen Gauge.

Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

During flash flooding

When flash flooding is likely, if you decide to leave, do so well before flooding occurs. Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. You may decide to shelter with neighbours, family or friends in a safer area.

Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away. NEVER drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

If you do not leave early enough and become trapped by rising floodwater inside your home or business, stay inside your building and seek the highest part such as a second storey.

Stay there and call Triple Zero (000) if your emergency is life-threatening.
Preventing for Floods

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, visit www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/property
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your emergency plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your emergency kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies reduce the impact and recover faster.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly and have more control to make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Your emergency plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency service providers, your insurance company, friends and family.

Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- Prepare to evacuate – means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- Evacuate immediately – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.
Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:

- Copy of your emergency plan
- Radio
- Torch
- Spare batteries
- Copy of documents & records
- Long life food
- Safe drinking water
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family
- Radio
- Torch
- Spare batteries
- Copy of documents & records
- Long life food
- Safe drinking water
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family

Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:

- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family

I need to add:
Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

- Special needs
- Photos
- Family keepsakes
- Valuables
- Documents
- Other
During a flood

When flooding has begun:

■ **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
■ Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
■ Never let your children play or swim in floodwater. It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
■ Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
■ In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
■ For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
■ Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
■ Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
■ Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
■ Keep in contact with neighbours.
■ Be prepared to act quickly.

After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

■ Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
■ Do not return home until you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

■ Investigate the structural safety of your building.
■ Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
■ Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
■ When entering a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters as there may be gas inside.
■ Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
■ Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
■ Clean your home straight away to prevent disease.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service provider. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

■ Giving flood advice
■ Protecting essential services
■ Helping to protect infrastructure
■ Rescuing people from floodwater
■ Advising of an evacuation

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.
Emergency Contacts

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning
- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to the radio and check the SES website for more information and advice.
- Go over your emergency plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your emergency kit and take this with you if you evacuate.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)
- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don’t forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

During the flood
- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- Do not drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery
- If your property has been flooded, check with Yarra Ranges Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:
- ses.vic.gov.au
- facebook.com/vicses
- twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Yarra Ranges Council Contact Details

Phone: 1300 368 333
Email: mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
Web: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Central

Catchment: Melbourne Water

Emergency Broadcasters
Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- ABC Melbourne 774AM
- Yarra Valley 99.1 FM
- SKY NEWS Television
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Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier:

Your gas supplier:

Doctor:

Vet:

Insurance
Policy Number:
Phone Number: