



Local Flood Guide Violet Town



Flood information for Honeysuckle Creek and Lambing Gunyah - Long Gully Creek at Violet Town



Honeysuckle Creek flood 2010

VIOLET TOWN



SHIRE OF
STRATHBOGIE



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

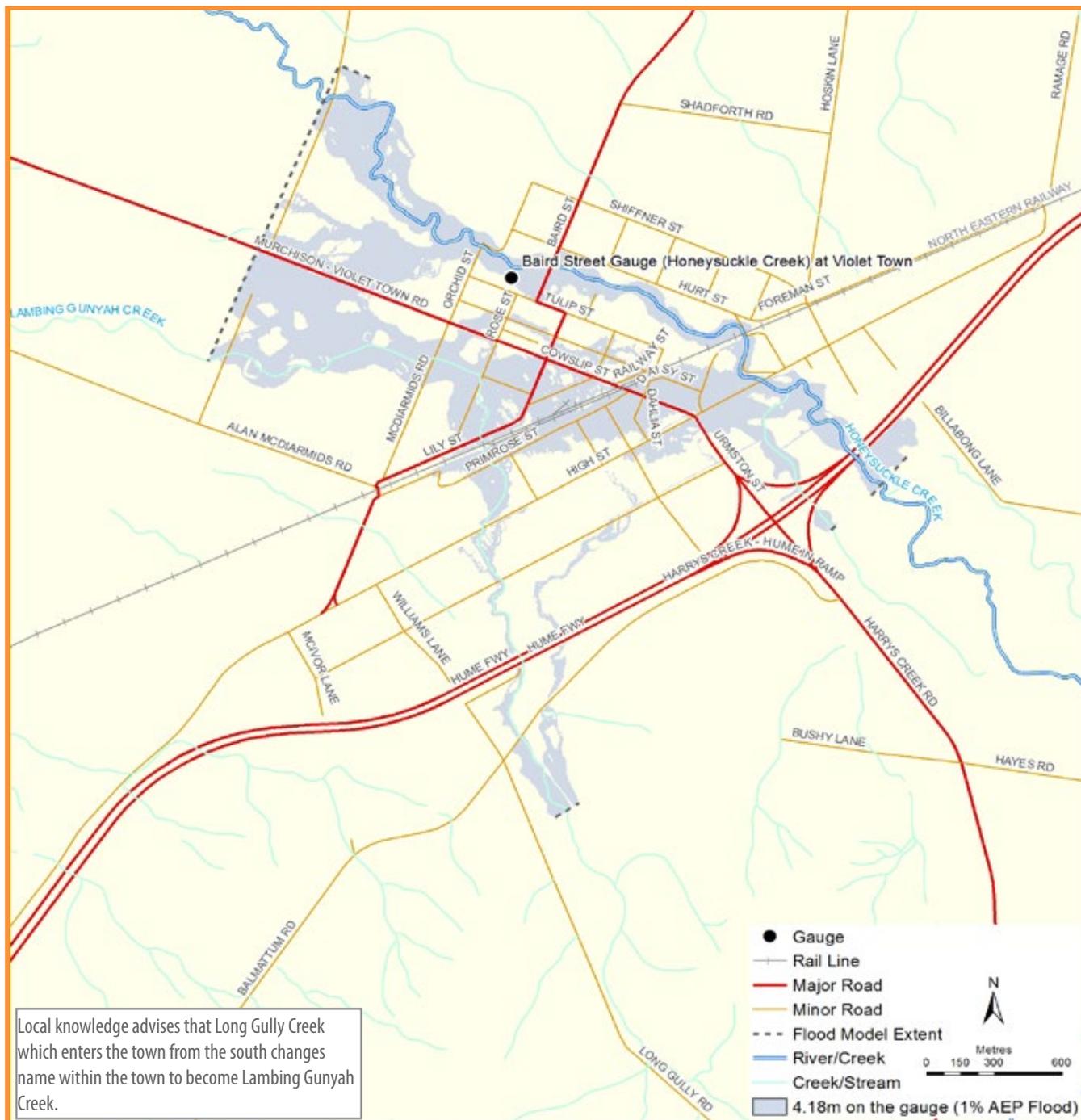
For more information visit
www.ses.vic.gov.au

The Violet Town local area

Violet Town is located close to the Hume Freeway between Euroa and Benalla within the Strathbogie Shire. Two main creeks flow through the town: Honeysuckle Creek and Lambing Gunyah Creek (also known as Long Gully Creek). The larger Honeysuckle Creek flows from near Boho, through Violet Town and joins Seven Creeks near Kialla.

Due to the small, steep nature of the Honeysuckle Creek catchment, Violet Town is often affected by flash flooding. Flash flooding can happen quickly and the town has been impacted by floodwater within three to six hours of heavy rain. With such a short time before floods affect the town, sending official flood warnings is very difficult. Residents need to take responsibility for their safety by monitoring local rainfall, watching creek levels and knowing where to find local flood information.

The map below shows a 1% flood which measures 4.18 metres on the Baird Street flood gauge on Honeysuckle Creek. A 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year. While no two floods are the same, the flooding shown below is similar to the 1993 flood.



Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Local 97.7 FM
- UGFM 88.9 FM or 98.9 FM
- Star FM 96.9 FM
- 3SR 95.3 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Strathbogie Shire Council

Phone: 1800 065 993
 Email: info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
 Web: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer
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The Victoria State Emergency Service acknowledges the support of the Violet Town Action Group in producing this local flood guide.

Are you at risk of flood?

Violet Town's flood history dates from 1844 with significant floods in 1903, 1916 (the highest known flood), 1939, 1968, 1974, 1993 and 1999. Flooding usually affects parts of town including areas around the Bush Nursing Centre, south of the railway line, and in farmland north and west of town in the Lambing Gonyah and Honeysuckle Creek floodplains. The town often becomes isolated (cut-off) as most roads are covered by floodwater.

The 1993 flood was caused by intense rainfall from local thunderstorms on an already wet catchment. Smaller floods in 2010 and 2011 had little impact in the town, but did affect some rural areas outside the town. The 2010 Honeysuckle Creek flood saw parts of the town evacuated as a precaution when rainfall exceeded forecasts. The Dookie-Violet Town Road and the Murchison-Violet Town Road at Violet Town were closed and disrupted travel around the area. To watch a video of this flood go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9xwJOYPKXs>.

Flash floods can happen more easily in areas recently affected by bushfires. The 2013 bushfire at Boho was in part of the Honeysuckle Creek catchment. Where bushfires have burnt away vegetation, floods can happen with less rainfall and they can move more quickly.

Honeysuckle Creek flood levels at the Baird Street Gauge

While no two floods are the same, the information below can give you a guide as to what could happen at certain heights, including when your property may be affected. This gauge is not automatically monitored by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), but is checked manually during floods. The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will include creek heights in their flood warnings to help you make more informed decisions.

4.27 m <small>176.12 m AHD</small>	Water continues to bank up south of the railway line likely to be one metre or deeper. 92 properties likely to be flooded above floor level. Vast areas of deep rural flooding north and west of town.
4.23 m <small>176.08 m AHD</small>	Water building up south of the railway line to one metre or deeper. 73 properties and the Bush Nursing Centre likely to be flooded above floor level. Water up to half a metre deep near Police and Fire stations. Extensive rural flooding north and west of town.
4.18 m <small>176.03 m AHD</small>	1993 flood level (approximate) Height shown on map page 2. Water likely to build up south of the railway line between half to one metre deep or more in places. 63 properties likely to be flooded above floor level in sections of Baird, Cowslip, Crocus, Dahlia, Daisy, Daphne, High, Hyacinth, Lily, Nicholson, Primrose, Railway, Rose and Tulip Streets. Water surrounds the Bush Nursing Centre. Widespread rural flooding north and west of town.
4.11 m <small>175.96 m AHD</small>	Water likely to build up south of the railway line to one metre deep. 55 properties likely to be flooded above floor level in areas of Baird, Cowslip, Dahlia, Daisy, Daphne, High, Hyacinth, Lily, Primrose, Rose and Tulip Streets. Significant rural flooding north and west of town.
3.97 m <small>175.82 m AHD</small>	Many rural properties flooded north and west of town along Lambing Gonyah and Honeysuckle Creek floodplains. Water likely to continue building up south of railway line. 37 properties flooded above floor level in Baird, Cowslip, Dahlia, Daisy, Daphne, Hyacinth, Lily, Primrose, Rose and Tulip Streets.
3.86 m <small>175.71 m AHD</small>	Floodwater up to 25 centimetres deep in front of the Police and Fire stations. Floodwater builds up south of the railway line. Properties are likely to be flooded in low areas of Baird, Cowslip, Daisy, Hyacinth, Primrose and Rose Streets.

Did you know?

During large floods, the Melbourne-Sydney railway line which divides the town in half, often acts as a barrier to floodwater flowing and draining away from the town. Floodwater can bank up against the railway track, resulting in deep flooding in the area south of the track, even flowing over the top of low sections of the track.

During the 1993 flood, Violet Town was severely impacted, including:

- Most of the town was affected with floodwater coming from from Honeysuckle and Lambing Gonyah Creeks. Water levels rose so quickly that the town was flooding in three hours.
- 40 houses between Murray Street and High Street were flooded to 1.2 metres deep.
- 18 people were evacuated.
- The Catholic Church, Masonic Hall, nine businesses and the Bush Nursing Centre were affected.
- Water spilled over the railway line into Railway Street, Cowslip Street and Lily Street.

While no two floods are the same, if a flood like 1993 happened today, above floor flooding is likely to affect 46 houses and 17 businesses in Violet Town. It is important that you know what to do in a flood.

Monitoring local rainfall and Honeysuckle Creek levels

While the Baird Street Gauge is read manually during floods, the upstream gauge in Sawpit Gully Road, Boho (Station No: 82084) is automatically monitored by the BoM and may be used in flood warnings. Some historical flood heights are below, which can help guide you as to what could happen if you hear a warning based on the Boho gauge. You can view Honeysuckle Creek flood and rainfall levels and Strathbogie North rainfall (Station No: 82043) on the BoM website.

Flood	Height at Honeysuckle Creek on the Boho Gauge
October 1993	Unknown (damaged). Estimated at a 1% flood.
December 2010	1.58 metres
September 2010	1.27 metres
August 1996	1.20 metres
February 2011	1.12 metres
November 1992 and July 1990	0.97 metres
August 2012	0.81 metres



1916 - Farmers Arms Hotel, Cowslip Street which burnt down in 1968 and is now the Police station.

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Flood Watches and **Flood 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 Watch will be cancelled if there is no longer a threat.

The SES will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms may be classified as severe due to their potential to cause significant localised damage through damaging wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe thunderstorm warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology 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. There may be little or no warning. The arrival time or depth of a flash flood can usually not be predicted.

Listen to Severe Thunderstorm and Severe Weather warnings for your area, especially if they include flash flooding. If you hear a warning, check the Bureau of Meteorology and Victoria State Emergency Service for advice.

Remember that flash flooding:

- Occurs so fast that it is often difficult to provide a detailed warning. Often it arrives without warning.
- Usually results from heavy rainfall falling during severe thunderstorms over a short time.

Know your local environment

If you live in or visit Violet Town, keep an eye on the weather, especially heavy rainfall or sustained rainfall over a number of days. Knowing the local area and making your own observations are a great tool to help your prepare for a potential flood. Keep an eye on local river and creek heights.

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 Violet Town community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All Emergency Services 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 Violet Town

Severe storm warnings, flood watches and flood warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and provide information about flooding. The BoM does not issue minor, moderate or major flood predictions for Violet Town. Sending warnings about Flash Flooding is not always possible due to the steep nature of the catchment. Flood impacts can affect Violet Town in six to nine hours or less.

If flooding is likely, tune into emergency broadcasters to check for information relating to the:

- Honeysuckle and/or Lambing Gonyah - Long Gully Creeks
- Goulburn Broken Catchment
- Northern Country weather district.

Information about floods will also be available from the SES. You can monitor rainfall and river levels on the BoM's website at www.bom.gov.au/Victoria/Observations > [Rainfall and River Height data](#) > [Goulburn Broken](#) > [Seven and Castles Catchment](#) > [Honeysuckle Creek at Violet Town](#) and the Strathbogie North rainfall station (station number 82043).

The Baird Street Gauge at Violet Town can provide you with an indication of what you might experience during a flood, *see page 3: Honeysuckle Creek flood levels at the Baird Street Gauge* to help you prepare.

NOW - before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Strathbogie Shire Council
- 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.

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 have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered 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 services, your insurance company, friends and family.



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

The time for me to evacuate is before:

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency services 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.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



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:



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 and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- **Floodwater can be deep and damage roads and bridges.**
- **Do not 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 emergency help from the SES in floods and storms call 132 500.**
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen power lines – electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood - they can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early.

When you leave early or evacuate:

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled and cats in cages.
- Go to a relief centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

If activated, Relief Centres can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends.

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

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 advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- 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 the building, use a torch to light your way - never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame 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 stay healthy.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although our SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible. 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 Checklist

NOW: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policies cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see ses.vic.gov.au.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to severe weather warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to 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.

When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Be ready to evacuate. Act early, 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. Raise chemicals and oils well above the predicted flood height.
- Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to higher ground.

During the flood

- For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
- 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, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with Strathbogie Shire 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

Emergency Contacts

Life threatening Emergency
Police fire ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For flood / storm emergency calls

132 500

SES Information Line

Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES

ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather Information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217

bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

relayservice.gov.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or 000 using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone	1300 555 727	132 500
■ TTY / Voice users phone	13 36 77	132 500

Internet Relay users log into

www.iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70

vicroads.vic.gov.au

Strathbogie Shire Council

Phone: 1800 065 993
Email: info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
Web: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Northern Country

Catchment: Goulburn Broken

Emergency Broadcasters

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

-  ABC Local 97.7 FM
-  UGFM 88.9 FM or 98.9 FM
-  Star FM 96.9 FM
-  3SR 95.3 FM
-  SKY NEWS Television

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: _____