

The NORTHERN Times

24 SCORESBY STREET, KERANG - PHONE: 52 1733.

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REGIONAL WEATHER DETAILS

TEMPERATURES
Thursday minimum 14.8 degrees, maximum 28.4 degrees. Friday 16.8, 21.3. Saturday 8.2, 18.5. Sunday 12.2, 20.7. Monday 11.2.

RAINFALL
Friday 6.4 mm. Saturday 3.6 mm. Sunday 22 mm. Monday 66.6 mm. Month to date, 98.6 mm. Year to date, 416.4 mm. (1992 to October 4, 394 mm.) September total rainfall, 103.4 mm.



September rainy days, 12.

EVAPORATION
Weekly pan evaporation - 20.8 mm.

FORECAST
Mild and sunny with a light to moderate west to

south westerly wind. Warning of moderate flooding current for the Murray River from Barmah to Barham. A warning of moderate rural flooding is also current for around Barham. Warnings of minor flooding are current for Loddon River downstream of Laanecoorie Reservoir, outlook Wednesday/Thursday: Fine. Mild.

Local fuel 'gate' bid

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Show washout

Border towns soaked

By GREY MORRIS

KOONDROOK and Barham residents were inundated with water on Sunday night and Monday morning as heavy rain caused flooding to a number of homes.

About 81 mm (3.25 inches) of rain was recorded in the region on Sunday and Monday as ground already saturated from previous heavy falls was again inundated.

Fire brigades from both towns were called to pump water from streets and back yards as several homes were threatened by rising water levels.

Koondrook firefighters were called on at 11 pm on Sunday to assist their Barham counterparts with street flooding but were forced to return to Koondrook soon after midnight to pump water from a number of streets. The Shire of Kerang provided sandbags for a number of residents in the town.

Forest, Station and Main streets and the Arbutnot Sawmill were the worst hit areas in Koondrook, where pumping was required to alleviate flood problems.

Main street residents, Bill and Winnie Douthat have lived in Koondrook for 56 years and have never seen rain like it. "Remember when you could row a boat from here to the pub when it rained in the old days but this is something else again," Mr Douthat said.

Mrs Doris Harris and Mr Des Hammond, residents of Maunder street in Koondrook, had different reactions to the high water levels in the town.

Mrs Harris has never seen levels as high as the present since moving to the town in 1971, while Mr Hammond has seen the water encroach close to his flat about "three times before."

Murray parade residents, Graeme and Roslyn Woods were forced to pump water from the rear yard of their residence on two separate occasions.

It was a similar story across the Murray River at Barham where Wakool street residents,

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Mr Trevor Trewin provided a dry perch for daughter Carlie outside their flooded Wakool street residence in Barham. Picture: GREY MORRIS.

Flooding frustrates saturated residents

A CROTON street couple is angry that nothing has been done to alleviate drainage problems in their area, with rain associated flooding inundating their property for the second time in 12 months.

Adrian and Jill Moore watched anxiously as the weekend's deluge created flood waters that completely covered their garage floor and measured 8 to 10 cm deep on their front driveway.

"You can't see a blade of grass," Mrs Moore said yesterday.

The couple's brick home fortunately rests on stumps and escaped any flooding, however Mrs Moore dreads to think what effect the rain will have on its foundations.

The Moore's property fronts a unsealed section of Croton street and cops flooding from both

Croton and Mokana streets during heavy rainfall.

The last time the Moores and their neighbors suffered severe flooding, they dug a drain to allow flood water escape into a nearby railway dam.

Mrs Moore said on that occasion borough staff inspected the area and informed residents that something would be done about drainage in the area.

"What angers me more is that the borough promised they would do something about it and they have done nothing,"

Mrs Moore said neighbors were also angry that nothing had been done.

She said during the last flooding, water made its way into a neighbor's lounge rooms.

"It's just frustrating,"

she said.

Shadforth street residents Allan and Jean Doody experienced both flooding and problems created by blocked sewerage as a result of the weekend's downpour.

Mrs Doody said a well on the nature strip in front of their property which normally took water away from the area had overflowed onto their front lawn and up to the edge of the house.

A sewerage block somewhere in the system created an overflow into the couple's back yard, which had resulted in quite a bit of runoff, Mrs Doody said.

Borough of Kerang staff were working to fix the problem yesterday morning.

Mrs Doody said similar problems had arisen during previous major storms.

By JULIE PARKER

ORGANISERS of today's cancelled Kerang Show hope to restage the event in either November or March.

Kerang District Agricultural Society officials yesterday reluctantly cancelled today's show following the weekend downpour which saturated Alexandra Park.

The show has been postponed in the past due to flooding in the area, however this time it's a case of the grounds being too wet.

Today's school holiday and half day public holiday have also been cancelled.

A scaled down night show was held last night, featuring a small number of side shows, pavilion entries and the announcement of the show girl competition.

The pavilion will also be open today, from 9 am to around 5 pm.

Society secretary, Mrs Sue Paul said the show's cancellation was very disappointing, particularly given that entries were up overall.

"It's a lot of work to go down the drain," Mrs Paul said.

The cream of the district's primary production, along with home crafts, schools exhibits and sideshow alley were set to provide entertainment at the 109th annual show.

A highlight of the day was to be a Pilatus PC9/A solo low-level aerobatic display by Royal Australian Air Force Central Flying School flight commander, Squadron Leader Dave Steel.

A special feature of the night show, an emergency services display involving represen-

tatives from the local police, ambulance, fire brigade and State Emergency Service unit, was cancelled.

One of the highlights of the cancelled grand parade was to be the Nightingale Horse Flyers - two nurses completing a marathon horse trek along the Murray River.

Harness racing heats were to culminate in the final of the \$1600 Kerang Show Pacing Championship.

Local children would have been disappointed with the cancellation of the ever popular animal nursery and pet show, while a show first - a free public immunisation session - will have to make its debut another day.

Other features of the cancelled show included

the Kerang Motorcycle Club's farm motorcycle competition, highland dancing, show girl and associated judging, a display of antique machinery and cars, and yard dog trials.

A total of \$10,000 in prize money and trophies was being offered to show entrants.

Exhibitors had the added incentive to do well with regional finals for motorbike, fruit cake, knitting and crocheting, photography, spinning and weaving and junior cattle judging sections being held in Kerang on March 26 next year.

Mrs Paul extended thanks to everyone involved with the show and said the community had really supported the event this year.

Inundated

KERANG was inundated with water from about 6 pm onwards on Sunday night, with 66.6 mm of rain falling to 9 am yesterday morning - the highest rainfall on an October day on record.

Sunday night's rainfall exceeded the previous October day record by 18.8 mm. The previous record was 47.8 mm, which fell on October 27, 1973.

It was also Kerang's wettest day since December 8 last year, when 75 mm fell on the township.

A total of 98.6 mm of rain fell between Friday and yesterday morning, including 6.4 mm to 9 am Friday morning, 3.6 mm to Saturday morning and 22 mm to Sunday morning.

Kerang Borough engineer, Mr Colin Campbell said many streets were covered with water and

there were some back-up problems in sewerage lines.

Mr Campbell said borough staff worked from 1 am onwards to ensure that the town's pumps were working properly and he said by yesterday morning problems had begun to decrease.

"It's just a catchup process now," he said.

Mr Campbell said he was not aware of rain associated flood waters entering any homes, however some water had made its way underneath homes.

He said that fire brigade personnel had pumped out the top end of Cleeland place on Sunday night to ease flooding problems.

Mr Campbell said some the roads partly or fully inundated with rain associated flood waters included Westblade, Lyall, Muir Canonsgate and Lilac avenues, William, Mitchell, Croton, Mokana, Boundary and Burke streets, McCann crescent, Park road and the Bendigo service road.

WHERE THE RAIN FELL

	mm
Murrabit	105
Myall	105
Kerang	99
Gonn Crossing	93
Koondrook	82
Tragowel	76
Lake Meran	53
Mystic Park	50
Kerang East	37
Gunbower	32
Benjeroop	31
Leitchville	26
Horfield	25
Gannawarra	19



Houses in Croton street, Kerang, were surrounded by water after the weekend torrent. Picture: WALLY GROTE.