

24 SCORESBY STREET, KERANG - PHONE: 52 1733.

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Wednesday 10.2,
16.9. Thursday 8.1.
RAINFALL
Monday 8.6 mm.
Tuesday .4 mm. Month
to date, 103.4 mm. Year
to date, 317.8 mm. (1992
to September 23, 341.2
mm).
RIVER SALINITY

1650, 1670, 1570, 1483,
1368 EC. Barr Creek at
Capel's Crossing, 4710,
4780, 4460, 4500, 4800,
5610, 6660 EC.
FORECAST
Fine apart from local
morning fog. Cool to
mild and mainly sunny
day with a light south-

Loddon River. Moderate
flooding current for the
Avoca River down-
stream of Charlton, the
Murray River from
Barmah to upstream of
Barham. A warning of
moderate rural flooding
is also current for
around Barham.

PAGE 7: River frontage
group formed
PAGES 8-9: Motoring
PAGES 12-13: Iggy Ibis
Club
PAGE 15: Letters

Major flood alert

By JULIE PARKER

THE district is bracing itself for major flooding of the Loddon River and its tributaries.

Flood levels are expected to be similar to the record floods which devastated much of the district in August 1981.

The Loddon River is expected to peak at Appin on Saturday and at Kerang on Monday, with major flooding predicted.

The expected major flood levels follow a recent minor flood and will take some time to recede due to the high volumes of water.

With the Loddon River downstream of Laanecoorie Reservoir, east of Dunolly, peaking at 5.82 m on Monday, Rural Water Corporation controller of operations at Kerang, Mr Ross Frantz believes this year's flood will at least reach 1981 levels when farming and road damage losses exceeded \$20 million.

Three recorded flood heights of 5.67 m, 5.35 m and 5.02 m were measured at Laanecoorie that year.

The Loddon River at Kerang reached a record 77.845 m (Australian Height Datum above sea level) in 1981 and flooded to 77.31 m last year. Previous highs of 77.78 m and 77.63 m were recorded in 1975 and 1983 respectively.

Mr Frantz believes the river will reach between 77.6 m and 77.8 m at Kerang next week.

The flood peaked at 3.09 m at Appin in 1981 and 3.14 m last year and is expected to rise to between 3.1 m and 3.3 m this weekend.

The Avoca River is expected to rise at Quambatook on Friday and exceed the flood level on Saturday, peaking on Sunday and creating moderate flooding with levels between 2.2 and 2.3 m.

Moderate flooding of the Murray River is expected upstream and downstream of Barham, with a peak of between 6 m and 6.1 m.

The RWC is draining Kangaroo and Racecourse Lakes to create space for the flood waters and the Washpen regulator will be in full operation at the peak of the flood at Kerang.

It is also trying to create added capacity at Kow Swamp.

Mr Frantz said the RWC would try to out-flow excess Avoca River water down the 6/7 Channel to the Little Murray Weir.

Emergency service personnel, municipal officials, RWC and representatives of other relevant Government departments met on

MAJOR FLOOD LEVELS

Loddon River peaks similar to record 1981 flooding are expected in the district from this weekend:

- * Appin South 3.15 m-3.25 m (3.09 m 1981).
- * Kerang 77.6 m-77.8 m (77.84 m 1981).

Tuesday and again yesterday and have taken measures to try to cope with the floods under the local provisions of the State Disaster Plan (Displan).

Flood wardens located around the district have been warned and will advise their neighbors of the impending floods.

Sand and sandbags will be available through the shire and people are encouraged to make use of these early.

Both councils are checking major flood levees and the shire is establishing some banks along roadways.

District Displan co-ordinator, Chief Inspector Henry Button said the committee needed to prepare for the worst and look at stock transfer, evacuation if necessary and flood relief measures.

Shire engineer Mr Peter McDonald said the flood would probably cause road closures and broken banks, however full-scale evacuations were unlikely.

Borough engineer, Mr Colin Campbell said no real problems were anticipated in the borough due to protection by the one-in-100-year flood levee, with the exception of the northern boundary which was some cause for concern.

Mr Campbell said based on the projected flood level, the borough was doing works it thought necessary prior to the floods.

Some road closures are expected around Quambatook for short periods and there could be some problems between Kerang and Lalbert.

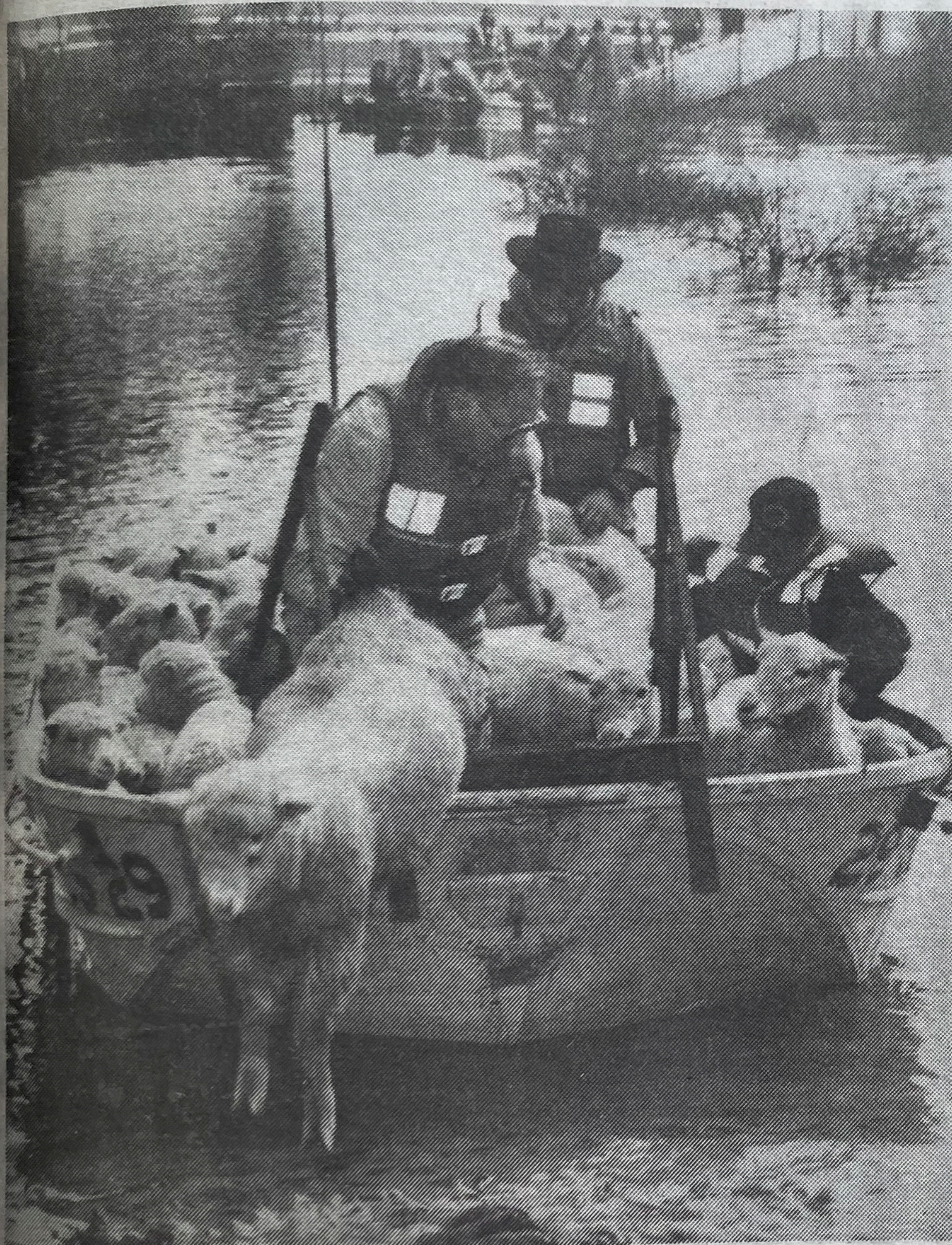
Mr McDonald said all major arterial roads were expected to be accessible.

Continued Page 2

FLOODING INFORMATION

The Shire of Kerang offices in Victoria will be the Displan headquarters for co-ordinating flood protection efforts.

Details about flood levels and expected peaks are available 24 hours per day by ringing a recorded flood warning message on 52 2307.



Nearly 700 sheep stranded by floodwaters on an Appin South property were carried to safety by State Emergency Service boat crews on Wednesday. Neighbors also helped Colin and Ingrid McCarthy move sheep and lambs marooned by the previous Loddon River peak, which had not subsided sufficiently to allow the sheep to be moved prior to the latest major flood warning. Mr McCarthy said he appreciated the support of neighbors and the assistance of the SES. Picture: WALLY GROTE.

Rural hospitals initiative 'positive'