



Local Flood Guide Skipton



FloodSafe

Flood information for Mount Emu Creek at Skipton



SKIPTON



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

Protecting our future - Naturally



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

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



Disclaimer
This publication is presented by the Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The State Emergency Service disclaims any liability (including for negligence) to any person in respect of anything and the consequences of anything, done, or not done of any kind including damages, costs, interest, loss of profits or special loss or damage, arising from any error, inaccuracy, incompleteness or other defect in this information. by any such person in whole or partial reliance upon the whole or part of the information in this map publication. Flood information is provided by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

Are you at risk of floods?

Skipton is a small rural township approximately 50 kilometres west of Ballarat. It is situated on Mount Emu Creek.

Skipton is located on a natural floodplain and has a history of flooding including 1909, 1933, 1963 and 2011. Flooding in Skipton occurs from two major sources:

- Flash flooding from Skipton reservoir (otherwise known as Jubilee Park Lake) caused by intense rainfall over a short period of time and;
- Mount Emu Creek, due to widespread and prolonged rainfall in the area causing water to overflow from the creek into surrounding low-lying areas.

Did you know?

The January 2011 flood (see map page 2) in Skipton was the largest flood recorded in Skipton. The conditions across the Mount Emu creek catchment area prior to the January flood were wetter than average due to prolonged rainfall in August and September 2010. The 2011 flood resulted in:

- Flooding of shops on the lower end of Montgomery Street including the Supermarket, Chemist, Hotel, Garage and Art Gallery along with 30 residential properties.
- Flood depths were over 1.5 metres in some properties.
- The Glenelg Highway Bridge was covered in floodwater and the Highway was closed for more than two days causing the town to be split in two.

It is important to remember that no two floods are the same and that floods like this or worse could occur again in Skipton.

Average Exceedence Probability

Flood risk is often described as a percentage based on the Average Exceedence Probability (AEP). The AEP is a percentage chance of a flood occurring in any given year, for example, a 1% flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

This means that the higher the percentage, the more likely a flood of that size will occur in any given year. It also means that it has less impact than a lower percentage flood.

Smaller percentages mean bigger floods and greater potential for impacts on the community. For example, a 1% flood is less likely to occur but will be more damaging than a 10% flood which is more likely to occur but will be less damaging.



Aerial shot of the 2011 flood in Skipton. Courtesy Mark Greenbank.

Key contacts for Skipton

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Local 107.9 FM
- 3BA 102.3 FM
- Power 103.1 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Corangamite Shire contact details:

Phone: 03 5593 7100
 Email: shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au
 Web: www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

Skipton Flood Levels at the Smythe Street Gauge

The Smythe Street Gauge at Skipton can provide information about flooding in the area, and may be referenced in flood warnings and information provided by SES. The following table indicates the likely impacts of flooding in Skipton according to the levels at the Smythe Street Gauge, with a comparison to the AEP level:

Height (metres)	
6.54 m	The 25 properties affected at 6.07 metres below subject to deeper overfloor flooding with one additional house flooded over floor. This represents a 0.5% AEP flood.
6.07 m	The 20 properties affected at 5.61 metres subject to deeper over floor flooding with five additional houses flooded over floor. Water over Lismore-Skipton Road downstream from Station Street up to 500 millimetres deep. This represents a 1% AEP flood.
6.04 m	January 2011 flood level (see map page 2)
5.61 m	The 14 properties affected at 5.10 metres are subject to deeper over floor flooding and the supermarket and four additional houses flooded over floor. Both sides of the road and the deck to the Glenelg Highway Bridge are under water. Water more than one metre deep in places. Water flowing over parts of Johnson Street, Anderson Street, Montgomery Street and Smythe Street to one metre deep. This represents a 2% AEP flood.
5.10 m	The five properties affected at 4.70 metres experience deeper over floor flooding. In addition, the Museum, Art Gallery and Eel Factory along with four additional houses and two additional commercial properties become flooded over floor level. Both sides of the road to the Glenelg Highway Bridge are under water up to 500 millimetres deep. In addition, flooding begins over parts of Johnson Street, Anderson Street, Montgomery Street and Smythe Street up to 500 millimetres deep and floodwater over Lismore-Skipton Road downstream from Station Street is up to 250 millimetres deep. This represents a 5% AEP flood.
4.97 m	September 2010 flood level
4.70 m	The four properties affected at 4.09 metres are subject to deeper over floor flooding and Skipton Pottery is also flooded. This represents a 10% AEP flood.
4.16 m	August 2010 flood level
4.09 m	Four properties with overfloor flooding including the Hotel, Pharmacy, Garage and one house in Montgomery Street. Water flowing over parts of Johnson Street, Anderson Street, Montgomery Street and Smythe Street up to 250 millimetres deep. This represents a 20% AEP flood.

About Flood Warnings

About Flood Warnings

Flood Watches and **weather 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 it is no longer a threat.

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.

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 and 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.

Flash flooding occurs because rain falls faster than the ground has the ability to absorb, causing water run-off into low-lying areas and into local drainage systems unable to cope with the volume of water. This results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly.

Flash flooding:

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

Listen to Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings for your area. If you hear a warning, check the BoM and SES websites for information and advice.

Know your local environment

If you live in the area, keep an eye on the weather, especially heavy rainfall or sustained rainfall over a number of days. Knowing your local area and making your own observations are a great tool to help you 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 Skipton 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 Skipton

BoM does not issue river height predictions for Skipton.

Weather Warnings and Flood Watches issued by BoM will provide information about when flooding is possible in the town.

If flooding is likely, tune into emergency broadcasters to watch and listen for information relating to Mount Emu Creek, the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment or the South West weather district.

Information about potential floods will also be available from SES. You can monitor rainfall and river levels on the BoM website at bom.gov.au.

The flood study undertaken in 2012–2013 will explore the possibility of placing a flood gauge for warning purposes in Skipton. For more information visit the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority website.



*Skipton Hotel, January 2011 flood.
Photo courtesy of Corangamite Shire Council.*

NOW—before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding.
- 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 if your neighbours are safe and if they 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.

The time for me to evacuate is before:

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 to think clearly, have more control and 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

Victoria Police is responsible for coordinating an evacuation in an emergency. 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.

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 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 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 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 stay healthy.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although 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 flooding.
- 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 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, 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 Corangamite Shire for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

- ses.vic.gov.au
- [facebook.com/vices](https://www.facebook.com/vices)
- twitter.com/viceswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency
Police Fire Ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)

For SES emergency assistance

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)

www.relayservice.com.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (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

Corangamite Shire Contact Details

Phone:

03 5593 7100

Email:

shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au

Web:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

Weather District:

South West

Catchment:

Glenelg Hopkins

Emergency Broadcasters

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

- ABC Local 107.9 FM
- 3BA 102.3 FM
- Power 103.1 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: _____