



Wild Weather Causes Havoc



Trees down on the Rail Trail

Last week's wild weather and subsequent power outage created havoc for local businesses, householders and farmers, roughly 100 roads across the Shire were impacted by fallen trees and flooding, and the extent individuals were impacted was dictated to some extent at least by pure chance.

After intermittent outages in some parts of Mirboo North from shortly after 7pm Wednesday night, it went out from approximately 9.15 Thursday morning and wasn't back on again until 5.20pm Friday.

Sunday morning though, there were still properties at Mirboo North, Mirboo, Berrys Creek, Boolarra South and Darlimurla without power, which wasn't planned to be reconnected until 11.30pm Sunday night.

Whether or not individuals had cash on hand when the power went, or their phone was charged up, or if their car

had petrol in the tank, or if they had gas as a source of heating or cooking were just some of the factors determining how individuals were impacted by the outages.

On their Facebook page, Leongatha SES last Thursday stated that in the previous 24 hours they had 65 requests for assistance in the South Gippsland area.

This post thanks the Mirboo North and Korumburra CFA units as well as numerous businesses and members of the public for their assistance. "Without your effort we wouldn't have been able to do it," this post states.

Mirboo North CFA Dave Smith said Sunday that he received a call from Leongatha SES Thursday morning asking for assistance. By that time, the local CFA had already had three call outs to assist in a driver in a vehicle being trapped in flood.

The first one of those was at 5.30am.

Although originally described as traffic accidents in the Yinnar and Churchill areas, just to get there involved having to cut up sizeable trees on Creamery Road.

Mirboo North CFA's Facebook page has a link to an SES site outlining how easy it is for cars to float in water. It only takes 15cm of water to make a small car move, 30cm for a medium sized vehicle, and 45cm for a large 4WD.

Dave Smith also makes the point that local CFA volunteers were working under the direction of the SES, but also provides other insights. These included that at some stage the SES realised things were just not safe for their members he but, on a brighter note, says the local CFA was able to provide showers and hot food for the wives and partners of CFA members. Generators were also provided for a few hours to

members to ensure their frozen food remained frozen.

We heard of one example of someone who had gone to Warragul to get a generator, while one of the businesses in town was using a generator Thursday afternoon. Dave Smith said he heard of the CFA in Leongatha providing generators.

While low lying water is a common feature of land seen from the Strzelecki Highway between Mirboo North and Leongatha during rain events, another frequent sight Thursday afternoon was numerous examples of where fallen limbs or trees had been cleared. This goes to the point made in the media that during the storm event the SES had the most call outs for assistance ever in one 24-hour period.

(Continued on page 4)