



OUR REGION PEOPLE



Edition One inside Tuesday's issue

Emergency services at the scene of Tuesday's accident. **Picture: JENNY DENTON**



Lucky escape

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A BARHAM driver was lucky to escape without a life-threatening injury after a rollover on Kerang-Koondrook Road at Teal Point on Tuesday morning.

The driver, a woman in her 40s, was travelling home towards Barham on the Kerang-Koondrook Road when she lost control of her Subaru station wagon just east of Lancaster Rd, and veered off to the left side of the road just after 10am.

Truck driver Matt Harvey saw the crash as he approached from

the opposite direction.

"She's overtaken and was coming back into her lane and she's hit a pothole or something," Mr Harvey said.

"The car's skipped out and she's done a couple of flips and landed there on the other side of a small levee bank."

Mr Harvey, who was on his way to Adelaide, stopped his truck and grabbed a fire extinguisher in case it was needed and went to the vehicle.

He was expecting the worst but found the car's only occupant, the female driver, conscious.

"I turned the car off and tried to

keep her calm and get her to sit back in case the airbag went off," he said.

Senior Constable Phil Lloyd from Koondrook Police confirmed the woman had hit an irregularity in the road after overtaking.

"She'd completed overtaking and just got back into her lane when she hit an indentation," he said.

"It has caused the vehicle to kick out to the right.

"She's tried to correct, overcorrected and in doing so the vehicle's rolled down the embankment two times before coming to rest."

Snr Const Lloyd said weather

conditions were good and the accident occurred on a long, straight stretch of road.

"There are some indentations on the road there due to wear over the years," he said.

"I was watching some other vehicles bounce as they went over."

Several fire trucks, a CFA forward command unit, an SES truck and two police units attended the scene along with an ambulance.

The woman was taken by ambulance to Bendigo hospital after being removed from the badly damaged vehicle by emergency services workers.

Man charged over Murrabit Road fire

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A 42-year-old Kerang man has been charged by Swan Hill police, accused of lighting a grass fire on Murrabit Road five kilometres from Kerang on Thursday, January 30.

The fire was the most recent of a series of suspicious grassfires in the Gannawarra region.

Kerang Fire Brigade captain Ramon Steel said the fire was reported at 10.25pm and brought under control within five minutes of firefighters' arrival, with minimal damage.

It burned a grass area between Murrabit Road and a farm fence.

The man was granted bail at Kerang, to appear in Kerang Magistrate's Court at an as-yet-to-be-determined date.

Detective Sergeant Patrick Bell of Swan Hill Police said he was charged on the night of the Murrabit Road fire.

"He was arrested not long after the fire was detected," he said.

"Police from Swan Hill Criminal Investigation Unit along with Gannawarra police have been conducting an operation over the last few days in relation to a number of grassfires that were deliberately lit."

Det-Sgt Bell said investigations are continuing in regard to the other fires.

"He's a person of interest in relation to the others," he said

"Up until today there's been no other incidents of grass fires being lit."

He cautioned people to take care in regard to fire safety and to report any suspicious behaviour to Crime Stoppers or local police.

"With the temperatures and certainly with the winds we've had recently it would not take much for a fire to get out of control," he said.

"So we ask everyone to still be vigilant and follow all the fire danger notifications and total fire ban days."

Weather

TODAY
Partly cloudy, 19-32

TOMORROW
Partly cloudy, 19-32

SUNDAY
Shower or two, 18-27

MONDAY
Cloudy, 18-28

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy, 19-32

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