

Wet start to the year - at a cost

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The Lancefield-Tooborac Road, Zig Zag Road and the Tooborac-Baynton Roads all had fallen trees and branches on them, and with the Mitchell Shire so busy in other areas, the Nulla Vale Fire Brigade got out and cleared the roads.

"It took from 7.30am until around 11am."

The Paterson property lost 100 trees, blown down in the strong winds. Their rain gauge read 93mm (over 3 1/2 inches) for the two days.

"This rain, at this time of year, will kill off any old grass and we know the new shoots will burn off within a few weeks, so other than fill dams and tanks it hasn't been



□ *LEFT: This photo of a large tree down over the Heathcote-Nagambie Road, about 27kms from Nagambie, was taken by traveller Kristy Williams from Forest Hill, NSW. Kristy cut short a berry-picking holiday with friends at Woodend due to the stormy weather and was heading home last Thursday when she encountered cars flashing their lights - and she soon found out why. She notified the Seymour SES when she got to Nagambie.*

any good for farmers," Mr Paterson said.

Five members of the Heathcote SES spent four hours on the Thursday clearing five large trees from the driveway of a house on the Pyalong-Lancefield

Road, where the occupants were unable to drive out.

They then spent another three hours clearing trees and branches from roads in that area and say power to Lancefield and Romsey was

cut for some time.

Controller Fiona Butler said that on the Tuesday night, the SES unit were called to the Queen Meadow Caravan Park, where half a large elm had fallen over a caravan. Fortunately the

owners were not home at the time. A front end loader had to be called to lift the tree so the van could be dragged out from underneath.

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