Flash flooding wreaks havoc in Geelong as heavy rain brings cool relief to Melbourne
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A burst of heavy rain has wreaked havoc in Geelong, with flash flooding causing damage across the town.

While Melbourne has emerged from a wet night to one of the coldest mornings of the year - just 12.8C at 7.30am.

Bureau of Meteorology's duty forecaster Rod Dickson said Geelong recorded the highest rainfall across the state "by far", with 60mm falling in just 20 minutes.

The SES took 185 calls for help, with 55 in metropolitan Melbourne and 68 in Geelong.

SES spokesman Stefan Delatovic said the major concern was flash flooding last night.

"It can happen at any time and come and go really quickly, so people need to be aware of it," he said.

Fallen trees, damaged buildings, roof leaks and blocked drains were also reported, but there were no reports of injuries.

The eastern suburbs took a hit too, particularly in the Yarra Ranges, with up to 35mm of rain falling.

Overnight, Melbourne recorded just 8mm.

Today, Mr Dickson said conditions will improve, with the CBD seeing only a shower or two this morning.

A pot hole is being investigated by VicRoads outbound in the middle running lane on the Monash Freeway, just after High Street.

Two right-hand lanes were closed, with a caller telling 3AW 12 cars had pulled over on the side of the road with flat tyres.

The cause is unknown at this stage, but crews were sent out as a matter of urgency.

Yesterday, Geelong Racecourse recorded 54mm of rain in an hour and drivers were caught off-guard with some cars stranded as the water rose to waist height in some low-lying areas.

Two drivers were trapped in their cars by the floodwater but were rescued safely by emergency services.

The playing surface at Simonds Stadium was temporarily under water before the NAB Challenge match between the Western Bulldogs and St Kilda.

Flash flooding also occurred around the change rooms.

The front of a building near the Ormornd Rd and Bellarine Highway intersection collapsed due to the rain.

But while the storm raged in Geelong, Melbourne avoided the worst of the wild weather, with the city recording only about 5mm of rain.

In Geelong, almost 40 people called the SES for help and spokesman Stefan Delatovic said the rain had hit extremely quickly.

He said several buildings had been damaged by flash flooding, with volunteers also helping two people trapped in their cars.

"Floodwaters can rise pretty fast and it took them by surprise," Mr Delatovic said.

About 180 children, parents and staff were evacuated from the Viatek Geelong Basketball and Netball Centre on South Geelong as the downpour flooded four of its courts.

"We had to call of our junior games and the entire senior night as a result, when you get something like 25mm of rain in 20 minutes it doesn't matter what you gutter system is like," centre manager Dan Riches said.

"We've never seen anything this heavy down here, we were mid-round when it happened and we've got a dozen people on deck with squeegee and towels trying to maintain things."

Geelong Fine Art School teacher Robert Drummond said he had to evacuate with his class of about eight students.

"It just pelted down (with rain) for about 10 or 12 minutes," he said.

"There's two hills that meet here under a bridge ... and suddenly there was three feet of water coming down the hill and we had to evacuate.

"I had to take them (the students) to higher ground ... I haven't seen a flood like this since 1995."

Mr Drummond said he estimated the flash flooding had caused more than $10,000 damage to antiques and artwork.