

11.04.2011

Attention: JUSTICE KATE HOLMES

QLD

Commission of Inquiry: Floods

Please find enclosed information that may assist with the inquiry into the TOOWOOMBA floods in JANUARY 2011.

- ① DATE 10.01.2011 Time 2pm - ~~Ref~~ ^{TOOWOOMBA} Local ABC RADIO STATION - News & Weather Broadcast And follow-up for next 45 minutes.

ABC RADIO Southern Queensland PN: 46313811

- ② 11.01.2011 Approx 9-50pm ABC STATE RADIO (BRISBANE) - AN INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE WITH THE MANAGER OF THE WIVENHOE DAM.

AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC I feel THAT ITS IMPORTANT TO RETELL THIS COMMUNICATION AND TO LEAVE THESE MESSAGES AS DELIVERED AT THE TIME.

Yours

SUSAN A MORPHY

TOOWOOMBA

Q. 4350

INSIDE: Get your 3-D bug poster

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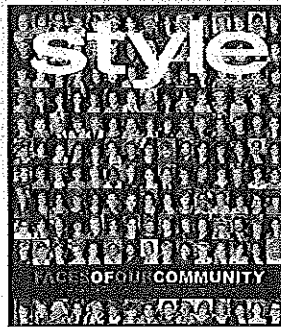
The Chronicle **150** YEARS 1861-2011

Friday, January 7, 2011

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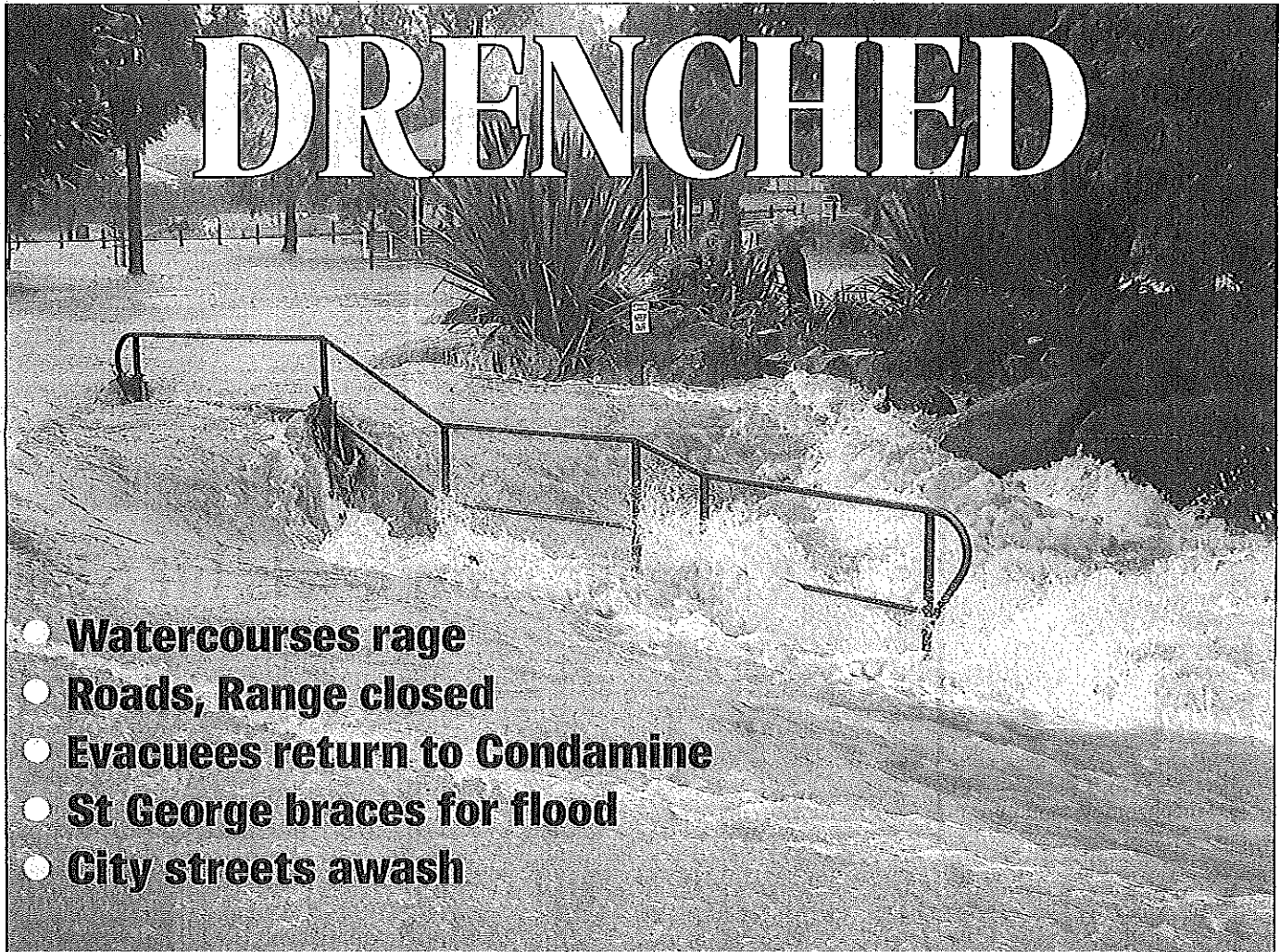
\$1.10

BONUS **Inside**
MAGAZINE



**GIANT
X-WORD
PAGE 42**

DRENCHED



- **Watercourses rage**
- **Roads, Range closed**
- **Evacuees return to Condamine**
- **St George braces for flood**
- **City streets awash**

East Creek surges after a surprise mid-morning deluge. Residents were caught unawares as streets flooded and roads were closed. Full weather coverage, pages 2-6

PICTURE: CALLUM JOHNSON

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Deluge



Chris Head surveys the aftermath of flash flooding at Withcott. PICTURE: NEV MADSEN

Water rips up road

CHRIS Head was astounded to see flood waters tear up bitumen when nearly one metre of water surged onto the Warrego Highway at Withcott yesterday morning.

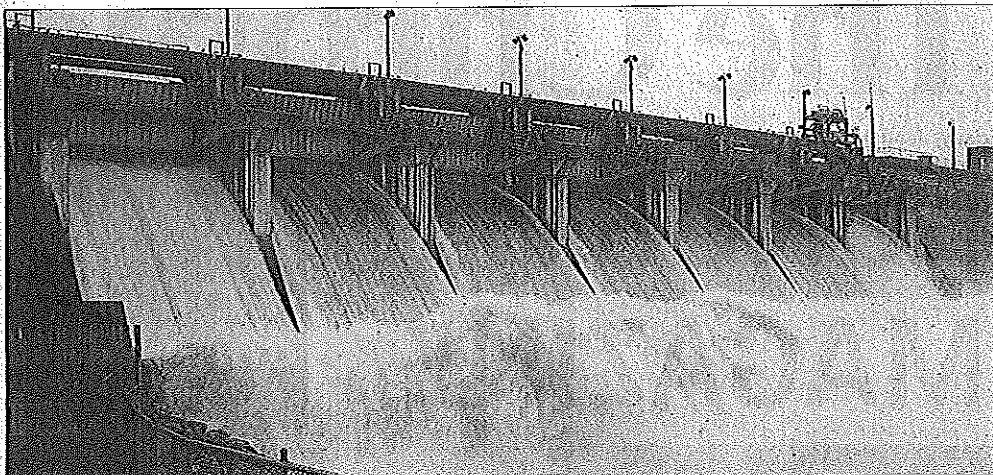
Mr Head, the owner of Withcott Fuels, said the bitumen just started peeling off the road and was dumped in front of his fuel station.

It took bobcats almost six hours to clean up the debris.

Across the road, Pauline Davis' hair salon was flooded, along with the newsagency and Big Dad's Pies.

Suzanne Case, owner of the Withcott Newsagency, quickly rushed to get all the stock off the lower shelves before the water entered her shop.

"It just came gushing up like a geyser," she said.



Leslie Dam near Warwick reached spill point for the first time in 20 years during heavy rains over Wednesday night.

PICTURE: SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Weather experts tip downpours will ease



By CALLUM JOHNSON
callum.johnson@thechronicle.com.au

DARLING Downs residents again woke to heavy rains yesterday, a pattern that is becoming all too familiar for Queenslanders as the La Nina weather pattern continues to grip the state.

Toowoomba Airport recorded 52.8mm of rain from 6am to noon yesterday, although many other places in the city received a lot more.

Bruce Baker from Construction Siteworks in Mort Street said 60mm of rain was collected in his gauge in only two hours (between 6.30am to 8.30am).

Elsewhere, Oakey recorded 40.6mm from 6am until noon yesterday while Warwick

recorded 17.8mm in the same time period.

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) senior forecaster Tony Auden said more rains would come over the next few days, although Darling Downs towns shouldn't be too worried.

"It's looking much less likely that we'll see widespread heavy rainfall so in that regard it's much less likely to affect any river heights in coming days," Mr Auden said.

How much fell

Rainfall readings from 9am Wednesday to 3pm yesterday:

Toowoomba Airport	78.4mm
Darling Heights	71.8mm
Rangeville	83mm
Oakey	56.6mm
Dalby	29.8mm
Warwick	36.8mm
Applethorpe	45.8mm
Gatton	45.4mm
Roma	26.2mm
Miles	20.2mm

Mr Auden said the rain would most likely be heavy around Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine Coast while falls would be much lighter in communities in the western Downs.

—additional reporting AAP

Inside today

LOTTO

Last night's winning Powerball numbers from Draw 764 were: 1, 15, 33, 34, 41 and the Powerball was 1.

DEATHS

McNAMARA, T.E. (Tom)
VEIVERS, S.K. (Ken)

FUNERALS

SONDERGELD, L.F. (Lisa)
ZIMITAT, J. (Kev)



AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING

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TOOWOOMBA'S dams have been given a generous boost after yesterday's downpour. The combined total of Cooby, Perseverance and Cressbrook dam levels was sitting at 63.5 per cent yesterday morning, the healthiest they've been for years.

Water Services Portfolio Paul Antonio said that number

would increase after yesterday's rainfall.

"Perseverance gained 2% from 9am to 12.30pm, bringing it to 93.8% full and very close to spill point," Cr Antonio said.

"I can imagine Cooby and Cressbrook will also receive some strong inflows."

Cr Antonio said Toowoomba's dams currently held 60,000

megalitres of water, the equivalent of 114 years of drinking water under current restrictions.

"The dams are the healthiest they've been in a long, long time, but it's been a bloody tough journey so far," Cr Antonio.

"It's been a tragedy for the farmers in the region."

Leslie Dam near Warwick reached spill-over point for the first time in more than 20 years on Wednesday night.

This marks the third time the dam has been full since it was upgraded in 1986.

The other two times were in May, 1990, and in September, 1988.

City's storage dam levels hit 63%

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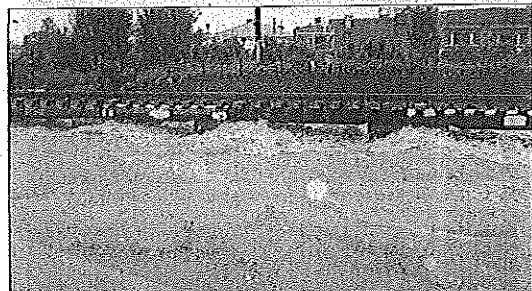
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hits Toowoomba



Flood waters turn West Creek near Milne Bay Aquatic Centre into a raging torrent.

PICTURES: BEV LACEY/ANTHEA GLEESON/ SUPPLIED/ CALLUM JOHNSON



A flooded West Creek laps at the railway line near Dent Street.



Gympie Pathfinders (from left) Heather Smolka, Aaron Crothers, Enya Smolker, Karl Tarrant, Anika Welke, Daniel Crothers and Christine Tarrant at the flooded campsite.



Pathfinder Anastasia Pott had the time of her life at the washed out camporee.



Myer staff members Andrea Snelling (left) and Judy Visser mop up after yesterday morning's deluge.

Watch the video
at www.thechronicle.com.au

Early storm turns creek into torrent



By ANTHEA GLEESON
anthea.gleeson@thechronicle.com.au

A TORRENTIAL mid-morning storm caught out inner-city retailers and motorists yesterday. The storm dumped up to 60 millimetres in some parts of Toowoomba's CBD in the brief deluge about 9.30am.

Dent Street turned into a river, prompting Toowoomba Regional Council crews to close the street near Grand Central shopping centre.

West Creek behind Milne Bay Aquatic Centre became a raging torrent and captured the imagination of nearby business owners.

"We would be under water if this wasn't here," Bill Stewart of A1 Fire and Safety store said of the elevated creek walls.

"It is an amazing sight."

Grand Central centre manager Shaine Beveridge said water entered the entry foyer to Myer on the corner of Margaret and Dent streets.

"Some minor maintenance works will be required to restore the landscaping outside the Myer entrance where water washed away the mulch," Mr Beveridge said.

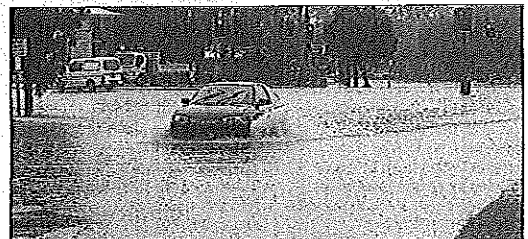
Nearby at the Toowoomba City Bowls Club, Bruce Wright watched as the greens turned to swimming pools.

"They drain fairly well," the greenskeeper said.

"But, in prolonged wet weather you do get a bit of algal build-up."

Mr Wright, however, expected games to be played on the weekend, if the weather held out.

Water was also spotted over the road in Bridge Street, at the James and Kitchener street intersection, West Street near Drayton Road, Mackenzie Street near South Street and also Alderley Street.



A motorist drives through floodwaters at the corner of Kitchener and James streets.

Youngsters brave the rain in true camp style

By KATE DODD
Kate.Dodd@thechronicle.com.au

PARAMEDICS treated about 30 children and organisers requested 1000 blankets after Pathfinder campers were caught up in the

torrential downpour yesterday.

About 3000 children aged between 10 and 15 are currently camping at the Toowoomba Showgrounds for the Australian Pathfinder Camporee, run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The children who were treated were suffering side-effects from the wet and the cold.

Medical team director John Watts said none of the children suffered serious illnesses.

Despite the muddy campsite, the

camporee is expected to continue through to Sunday.

Michael Boyd, who travelled from New Zealand to attend the event, said the rain did not dampen their spirits.

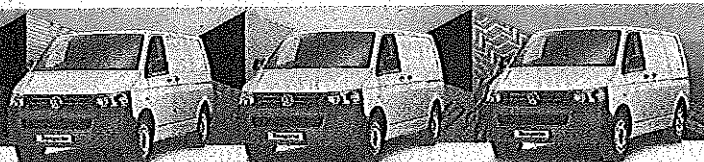
"We'd never cancel it just

because it was raining," he said.

Park Ridge Pathfinder Anastasia Pott, 15, said it was the best camporee ever.

"It's pulling everyone together to help each other out more," Miss Pott said.

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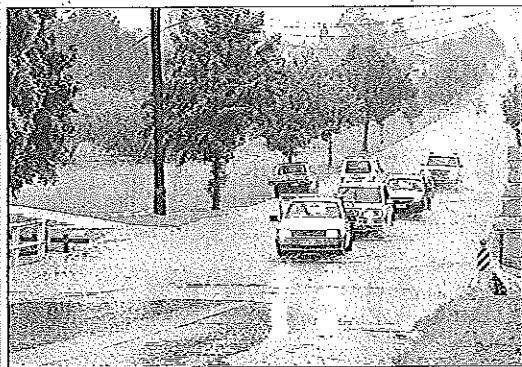
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Deluge



Cars navigate carefully through flash flooding on Alderley Street.

SHE OF TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE ON 10.01.2011



Toowoomba's streets became raging torrents during yesterday's downpour.

CNR JAMES & KITCHENER STS.

(RIP PHOTO PAGE 3)

Evacuees return to Condamine



By JOHN FARMER
John.farmer@
thechronicle.com.au

TONS of mud, widespread devastation and an unbearably stench greeted Condamine's evacuated residents on their return home late yesterday afternoon.

Some of the residents were flown into the isolated town by Black Hawk helicopter when attempts to bus them in were thwarted by rising floodwaters.

Portable toilets, fuel, thousands of litres of water, heavy machinery and dozens of medical, emergency and health personnel accompanied them.

Others who self-evacuated arrived throughout the afternoon to join in the clean-up.

Residents were briefed by authorities at 3pm before they were allowed to start the long and tough recovery.

Western Downs councillor Andrew Smith, who lives in Condamine, had remained in the town to assist police and SES personnel after the forced evacuation of 140 residents.

He said aside from the devastation, the waiting had proved unbearable.

"The biggest problems are the

mud, stench and, of course, the fact nothing really has been done yet," Cr Smith said.

"We're really looking forward to getting back home so we can start cleaning up."

Many of the emergency personnel deployed to Condamine over the past week had stayed at Cr Smith's home.

"These guys have been here working hard for the duration, feeding and caring for animals and helping anyone that needs help," Cr Smith said.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said the Condamine recovery had proved a logistical nightmare.

He said it was made even more daunting by the return of the rain.

"That means obviously there is a potential for localised flooding which is just another risk we have to face," he said.

Condamine publican Shane Hickey, who was one of several residents who self-evacuated, had made it to Dalby from Brisbane late yesterday.

He was expecting to arrive in Condamine last night.

"I need to be there for when the clean-up starts," he said.

"It's pretty daunting not knowing what we're going back to but now I just want to get back so I can work out what I can do."



Vince Parisi and Ryan Canning check out the flash flooding at the corner of James and Kitchener streets.



East Creek overflows across Long Street during yesterday's downpour.



More than 60mm fell in less than an hour yesterday morning, sparking localised flooding across Toowoomba.

PICTURE: ADAM DAVIES

Callouts keeping SES busy

TOOWOOMBA'S State Emergency Service personnel have endured another hectic day in what has proven to be a demanding two months.

Crews attended almost 120 jobs across Toowoomba and surrounding suburbs during yesterday's torrential downpour and subsequent widespread flash flooding.

Most of the jobs involved storm damage and required SES personnel to provide sandbagging or assist residents whose homes had been inundated with floodwaters.

Since the start of December, Toowoomba's SES groups have

responded to more than 370 callouts.

In December alone, they worked the equivalent of 1068 hours.

Toowoomba Regional Council Strategic Services spokesman Cr Noel Strohhfeld commended the work of all SES volunteers and countless citizens who pitched in to help all affected communities.

"While the SES has primary responsibility for responding to calls from the public, there have been many other people who have helped during evacuations and general calls for help," he said.

"The focus has turned to cleaning up flood-ravaged homes and businesses and counting the

cost of the damage to properties, crops and livestock.

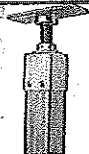
"A lot of people are volunteering to help SES personnel clean up homes and businesses.

"Without this neighbourly support, conditions would be much worse."

Cr Strohhfeld said it was heartening how communities like Cecil Plains pulled together in a crisis.

He said it was even more impressive considering the community was isolated for a week.

About 50 SES personnel handled calls for assistance during the holiday period.



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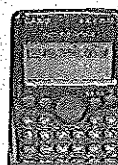
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