

# Standing tall

THE raging Brisbane River was unstoppable but the community's spirit has been immovable. Reports of loss and heartbreak throughout the low-lying suburbs have been outshone by tales of unexpected generosity and heart-filling courage.

MANY HANDS: Drew Williams and Toni Jeavons help with the clean-up at Boardwalk Bar & Bistro in the city. Picture: PAUL GUY

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**“** NATALIE LEHMAN  
Daisy Hill  
I had a few days off but it didn't feel like a holiday. At Daisy Hill it felt like nothing was happening.



**“** LIEZL STEYN  
Mt Ommaney  
I worked at the university at St Lucia, shovelling mud. It was a lot worse than I expected it to be.



**“** DOUG WHILE  
Nundah  
What we were able to do for friends was to put items in our fridge and offered accommodation.



# History repeats for ex-NT chief

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MANY felt deceived by their own eyes last week.

Pontoons, walkways, vessels, household appliances and even a restaurant were consumed by the Brisbane River and dragged out to Moreton Bay as thousands of homes were enveloped in a brown, swirling soup.

Former Northern Territory chief minister Shane Stone has experienced recovery from Mother Nature's fury first hand and last week watched the disaster unfold from his Edward St apartment building.

He said the scale of the disaster was "unbelievable". "We thought it was incredible when we saw one pontoon float down the river but when you see a hundred, some with boats and other



Shane Stone

things still on them, we knew this was quite a disaster unfolding."

Mr Stone and his family had a front row view of the damage.

His daughter Madeleine photographed a boat breaking from its moorings and sinking with people still on it, the city streets fill with murky water and the nearby hole left by stalled development, Vision, become a inner-city lake.

In the 1990s, Mr Stone led the response and initial rebuilding of Katherine, after floods in 1998.

"Katherine was a town of 10,000 people but this was unfolding in a major centre," he said.

"Then we had large parts of the city without power for



and mobile phone networks stretched or went down."

As people pick through what can be salvaged from their homes, he said a priority must be placed on rebuilding.

"I think it's important from a morale point of view we don't concede defeat to the elements," he said.

Mr Stone said he expected



ABOVE: The intersection of Margaret and Edward Sts go under. Top left: A boat ripped off its mooring. Left: Vision apartment hole inundated. Pictures courtesy of Madeleine Stone

the city's flood preparedness, building codes and the handling of the disaster will be evaluated and reviewed by a statewide independent commission of inquiry, established by Premier Anna Bligh on Monday.

The commission will be headed by Queensland Justice Cate Holmes, deputy commissioners Jim O'Sullivan, and Phil

Cummins, an international dams expert, delivering an interim report in August and its final report within 12 months.

"This is a totally necessary inquiry, too many people have died and too much damage has been caused throughout the state and this must be thoroughly investigated ... too many people are crying and weeping and

without their homes.

"There's no running away from this, but one thing I do believe, from what I've seen, Queensland can be proud and impressed by people like (Brisbane Lord Mayor) Campbell Newman and (Ipswich mayor) Paul Pissalle.

"Now we need to make sure we put in measure to do our best to make sure there's not a recurrence."

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In addition Roger has 20 years experience in finance, banking & commerce in France and Australia, and specialises in French for Business, preparing students for the Paris Chamber of Commerce "Diplôme de Français Professionnel Affaires".

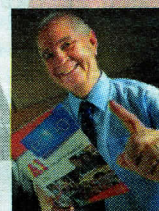
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## Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal



Image courtesy of News Ltd.

### Queenslanders need your help...

Queensland is reeling from the worst natural disaster in our history. Three quarters of the state has felt the devastation of raging floodwaters and we now face an enormous reconstruction task.

You can help make a difference by donating any amount, no matter how small, to help Queenslanders get back on their feet.

Please give generously.

Visit [www.qld.gov.au/floods](http://www.qld.gov.au/floods) or call **1800 219 028** (6am - 11pm)



Authorised by the Queensland Government, George St, Brisbane.





## PLUMBING CHECK

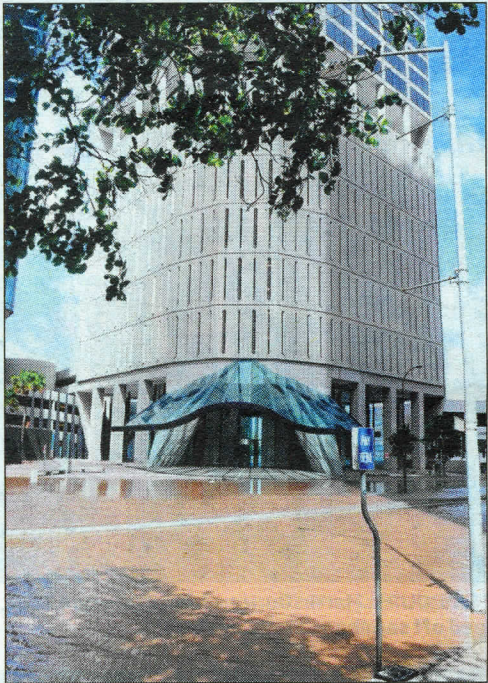
MASTER Plumbers' Association of Queensland is warning people to check their plumbing and electrical work as a priority. Plumbers need to look at septic overflows and silted drains to safeguard against disease and ensure public health.

## SCAM WARNING

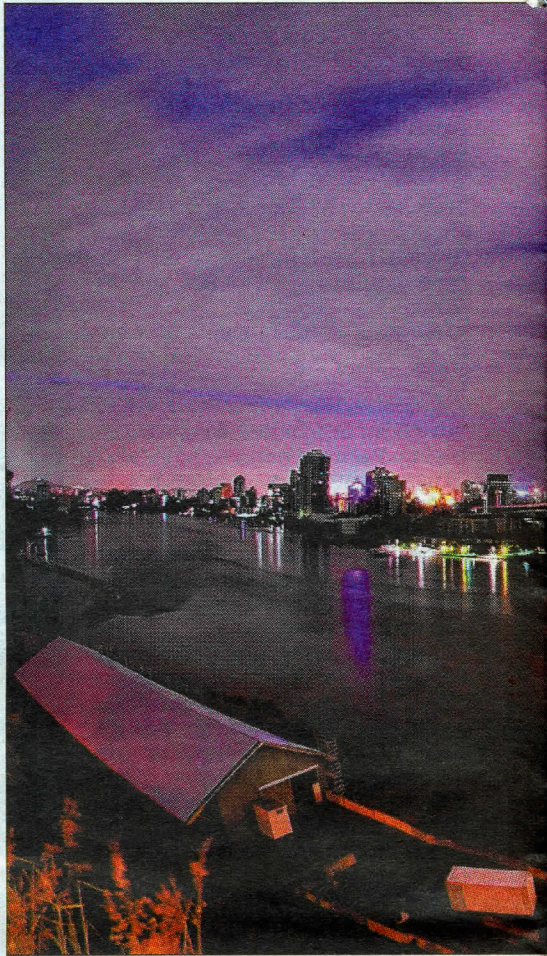
FRAUD police have warned the public to beware of a scam where for a fee of \$200 and a heap of identity information a business offers to fast-track all government relief applications. No such organisation exists.

# Images we'll never forget

THIS TIME LAST WEEK, INNER CITY BRISBANE BUNKERED DOWN IN PREPARATION FOR THE WORST FLOODING EVENT SINCE 1974. **CITY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS** CAPTURED THE DESTRUCTION AS IT UNFOLDED AND RECORDED THE MASSIVE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS OF AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS.



Floods outside Eagle Street office building.



BEAUTIFUL BRISBANE: The city at dawn on



January 13, with the Brisbane River in full flood.

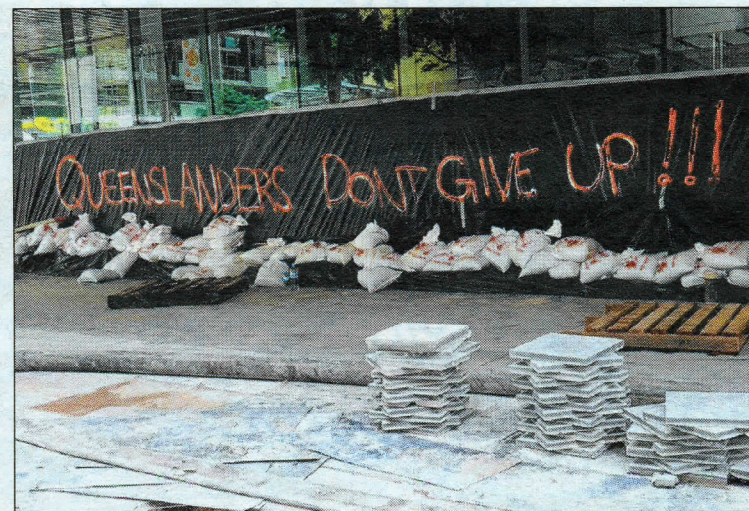
Pictures: PAUL GUY, JOSH WONING, NICK KUHN AND DALE HABERFIELD



Michael Borg salvages what he can from BWS in Margaret St.



Cleaning The Groove Train. Below: The Riverside Centre



Encouragement among the mess on Elizabeth St.



Onlookers watch the river rise in Brisbane City.



Left: Royal on the Park Hotel. Above: Sightseers at Kangaroo Point cliffs. Below: Part of the river walkway dangerously adrift.

