

2011 floods Submission for Qld Gov Flood Inquiry 30.march. 2011

G'day.

I created this Facebook page b4 xmas 2010, I was helping out with the rockhampton floods, after i came across a few pages covering the flood. i created a group first, as i had family living up that way, and i wanted to know what was going on. Also being a amature weather watcher for my love of taking photo's of storms & nature, i was following the weather on the BOM. After being involved in helping ppl by collecting Emergency information and passing it onto other pages or individuals. Then watching the weather and realising it was moving slowly south i madea page up for my local area, also being involved i found other pages & realised i was not as needed as much as i thought. But was still able to pitch in & help, while still trying to collect information for the area under my umbrella, Including Wide Bay, Burnette, SunshineCoast & Hinterland. (BTW i had set up a community group 2 yrs earlier for Imbil. 4570 Qld)

I am not sure about dates as i was not sleeping a real lot, days ran into others like alot of ppl through the period of the floods. But i do remember on a saturday night after Maryborough had had its first maximum peak during that day, my membership on my page was less than 200 people from all around Australia. I had been watching the weather, & noticed that the low that was sitting off the coast drifted on to land and basically sat in the one place all night, sitting just south of Maryborough but upstream on the mary river. I started to get really worried as i knew that most ppl in that area were sleeping as they had had a big few days before hand. I was waiting and waiting for warnings from the weather bureau. but there was none. I new that the rain they were getting was a huge amount. By now with daylight approaching, thinking the water in the river & creeks had to be rising quickly & worried ppl would be caught unawares, i decided to try & ring the local ABC radio, as it was broadcast from elsewhere in Australia, i eventually got through after trying the numbers i had, then waited until they mentioned the number where they were broadcasting from. I got through and was put on air when i explained to the producer what was going on. I was then talking to Trevor Chapple, who had just said that he was filling in for Macca, so i new it was a Sunday morning. I explained the situation to him, then was put on hold for a minute Next thing i knew i was listening to the Abc on the sunshine coast. Can not really remember weather i talked to anyone there, i may have expained it to them, but i knew it was somewhere ppl could be updated if they listened to the radio, and could ring in information for others in the area, water hieght road closures etc.

After this everything was a blur, with so much happening, the weather started moving south, including where i live. I actually so i was watching rivers & creeks so i could update others. We actually lost power for a couple of days which was when the Inland tsunami hit the lockeyer valley(i still think that if i was online, and knowing the rate the rain was coming down, I may have been able to alert that area as membership on page had gone upto about 9,000 ppl by then?)

Anyway the page has all information, Dates, Times & photos. I have not gone back through page to help fill in blanks, The whole experience was fairly surreal, and i only had a few hours sleep through the worst of it, which i suppose was a 5-6 day period.

The way this page grew over that period shows how ppl needed information they could not get elsewhere, also the way that it was running itself, with ppl uploading information & photo's also shows how well Social media can work in an emergency. I have been lobbying the Qld Gov on twitter trying to encourage them to upgrade Emergency Dept's on to Social media, only to be ignored, so i ithink this story needs to be told.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wide-Bay-Burnett-Sunshine-Coast-Hinterland-2011-flood-updates/191264054217626>