

Clean-up workers sought for flood victims

WIDGEE Mountain residents Brenda Nancarrow and Phillip Weiss woke to what sounded like an aeroplane crashing.

It was 1.20am on January 10 and a quick peek out the back of their house revealed the source of the noise - roaring water, rising rapidly around their home and carrying away farm equipment, including water and fuel tanks, a hot water system and irrigation gear.

Phillip just managed to prevent their Landcruiser utility from floating away, his weight being just enough to give slight traction, enough to get it onto higher ground.

The normally solid ground of their yard varied in texture from spongy to liquid and in places opened up beneath their feet.

Daylight revealed a scene of devastation, with uprooted and dismembered trees, farm implements wrapped around trees and vast quantities of fencing either missing or covered in mud and rocks.

It is this sort of damage which has prompted a strongly practical focus for this year's Clean Up Australia Day on March 6.

Volunteers from the Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee will be helping Gympie Region landholders clean up their properties, creeks and access tracks and after last month's floods.

The MRCCC's Deb Seal said there were still plenty of landholders needing help to get back on track in the Gympie Region.

Ms Seal said car pooling was being organised and anyone willing to help can contact organisers on 0408 170 102.



MOVING ON: Heart of Gold International Film Festival director Malcolm Blaylock will finish up after this year's event. Craig Warhurst

Heart of Gold boss moves on

GYMPIE'S Heart of Gold International Film Festival director Malcolm Blaylock will not be seeking to extend his contract for a third year.

Chairwoman of the Heart of Gold board Katrina Pederson thanked Mr Blaylock for his contribution to the festival.

Ms Pederson said while the board was disappointed with Mr Blaylock's decision, she was confident the festival was now in a strong position with national

and international recognition.

She said the board was confident the position would attract a good field of candidates.

Mr Blaylock said the decision not to extend his contract had been a very difficult one.

"I came originally for one year and stayed for two," he said.

"The people of Gympie have been very welcoming and I have really enjoyed my time here.

"I will still be in Gympie for a little while yet and I am now fo-

cused, along with the festival staff and volunteers, on presenting a dynamic, exciting and fun-filled festival in March this year."

The board will advertise the position soon after the completion of this year's festival and expects to have a new director in place by the middle of the year.

Anyone wishing to express interest in the position can contact the Heart of Gold office via email at info@heartofgold.com.au.

NEWSBRIEFS

Party is off

POLICE issued a warning about social network security yesterday after a teenager's Facebook site was hacked and thousands responded to an open house party. The Brisbane family told police they were not holding a party this weekend and were unaware their teenage son's Facebook site had been tampered with.

The boy's father said it was a warning to them about internet security. He said his son panicked and told him his Facebook site had been hacked when the number of people saying they were coming to the party started to climb, eventually reaching around 4000. Police said they would be on hand at the weekend to make sure would-be partygoers did not disturb the people living at the address. -AAP

scheme and for some of the revenue to go into better public transport. The move came as Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, who labelled the scheme a broken Labor election promise, declined to say whether he would scrap it if he won power. A committee set up in the wake of Julia Gillard forming minority government with the Greens and independents last year has flagged a carbon tax to start on July 1, 2012, followed by an emissions trading scheme three to five years later. The proposed plan excludes agriculture from the carbon price, but includes transport and energy sectors. -AAP

Fewer wait

NEW Minister for Health Geoff Wilson released the Health Quarterly Performance Report yesterday, saying the latest report for the December 2010 quarter had shown that across all three categories the state's elective surgery performance had improved.

Petrol tax

THE Australian Greens say they will push for petrol to be taxed under an emissions trading

the black & white dinner

& official launch of Queenslanders for a Cause: to find the cause of MS

details

26 March from 6.30pm til late at the Gympie Civic Centre

Key Note Speaker
Dr Judith Greer, BSc (Hons) PhD
Senior Research Fellow, UQ

MC
Rosanna Natoli

tickets
Limited to 300 seats only
\$120pp
\$1500 premium table sponsorship includes

6 Course Degustation Dinner
Designed by Chef Brendon van Rensburg

Hours of Fabulous Entertainment
Brisbane Symphonic 20 Piece Swing Band

dress
Lounge suit, gorgeous & glamorous

rsup
Harvey World Travel 89 Mary St, Gympie
or call 07 5482 8388
18 March



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