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WHAT IS THE FLOOD RISK AT JINDALEE?

By James Irish, B.Sc., B.E.

Mr. Irish is working on flood mitigation projects for a firm of Consulting Engineers in Brisbane. He is also completing a Master's Degree at the University of New England.

The recent severe flood in the Brisbane River has prompted many people to enquire about the risk of future floods. People whose houses were flooded to any degree wish to know the probability of further floods reaching their floor or other level at which damages and inconvenience commence. Those who were not flooded are concerned to know the likelihood of their being flooded in the future.

Prior to January 1974, Brisbane had been fortunate to escape from serious flooding from the Brisbane River this century; the construction of Somerset Dam subsequent to the 1931 flood mitigated the flood of 1955 and other minor floods to an extent that they caused minimal damage in residential areas. Newcomers to Brisbane and those who had not witnessed the 1931 flood had no conception of the possible extent of flooding in a severe flood such as this one.

The 1974 flood was the largest since the record flood of 1893; in the Jindalee area the recent flood was 13 feet higher than the 1931 flood level, and about 12 feet lower than the 1893 flood. Had the Somerset Dam existed then this flood would have been within 2 feet of that flood.

WIVENHOE DAM

Wivenhoe Dam is currently being planned and is expected to be completed in 1982. Although the heaviest rainfall in the recent flood occurred over the Bremer River, the proposed Wivenhoe Dam would have reduced flood heights at the Port Office by between 6 and 8 feet according to a press report, and by an even greater amount at Jindalee. The estimated reduction of Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams for the 1893 flood is 27 feet at Jindalee. Wivenhoe Dam operated in conjunction with Somerset Dam will therefore be very effective in reducing floods heights resulting from heavy rain over the Upper Brisbane and Stanley Rivers, and have a lesser but still significant effect on floods caused by heavy rain centred on the Bremer River or other streams not in the catchment of the proposed Wivenhoe Dam. (Somerset Dam has a catchment area of 515 square miles, Wivenhoe 2730 square miles, and the Brisbane River catchment at Brisbane is 5200 square miles); the inability of Somerset Dam alone to limit peak runoff unless it occurs on the Stanley River is apparent, as only 10% of the total catchment is controlled).

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NEW HOUSE ON RIVER FRONT

On February 18th, work began on Mr. and Mrs. John Haines new 48 square home on the riverfront at Koorringal Drive. To be constructed of off-white Miami Stone, the four-bedroom house will have mooring facilities, with access from an elaborate terraced garden. This property is sure to become a landmark from the river at Jindalee.

Here the builder, Mr. Albert Bates, of Al-Ron Constructions, explains his plans, oblivious of the superb river view.

Action Committee's Review of Flood Damage

Over the last 10 days, the Flood Action Committee in the Jindalee area has been assessing damage and loss. By Questionnaire and personal approach, significant data have been accumulated and are now being evaluated with the aid of the University of Queensland Computer. This interim article gives you some idea of the impact of the floods upon local residents.

Answers to pertinent questions concerning the amount of infiltration into homes structural damage, personal losses and estimates of costs to the householder, aid received etc., are now being processed. Catastrophic though the floods have been to the people concerned, answers indicate that disastrous flooding occurred in a smaller number of homes than was initially feared.

The statistics are at present incomplete. However, within one or two weeks a substantially complete picture of damage information indicates the

wide ranging hardship borne by local residents in the face of such unpalatable facts as the absence of flood insurance cover by all but 20 people in the current sample of 239. Add to this the loss of income by small businessmen and you see what happens when a river leaves its banks.

With the aid of other members of the Action Committee who are working for the sole purpose of furthering the interests of Jindalee area residents, it will be possible to present statistics such as we are gathering to politicians, engineers and the lay public. The data being compiled will unquestionably form the most detailed record of the impact of flooding on a major residential community in the history of natural disasters in Australia. As a technologist I believe that it is impossible to assess the true level of aid required by victims, implement long-term remedial flood action, or document the sociological and psychological im-

pact of this kind of disaster, without facts. During the crisis period, when local people were tired and apprehensive about their properties and personal safety, and when they were finding new insights into community activity, we all experienced rumour rather than fact. One of the great merits of technology is that it has to deal with situations as they really are, disasters included. Therefore, I believe that the contribution that Jindalee can make is to serve as a model of urban response to what are, in part, unpredictable events, and to present to Government facts which will in the future guide it

in establishing an even better level of aid.

The data now being assembled will be published. More importantly, the Action Committee will continue to provide a vehicle for aid and direction to people in need. Please use it and please bring the existence of the Committee to all people in need. The outcome of this flood will not be permanent suppression of property values. Rather it will be the continuing friendship of people, previously unknown to each other and who were spoken to for the first time over a shovelful of what Public Health Engineers refer to as their bread and butter.

Name and Phone numbers of your Committee

John Dawe (Chairman)	76 1169
Peter Swannell (Vice Chairman)	76 1087
Tony Morgan (Hon. Secretary)	76 2187
Peter Conder	76 1548
Nev. Meredith	76 1152
Bob Meredith	76 1539
Philip Teitzel	97 9903
Tom Theodosiou	76 1413
Mrs. Gloria Handley	76 1387
Mrs. Barbara Laffan	

—Dr. Peter Swannell, M.I.C.E. (London), M.I.E. (Aust.), M.W.I. (London), B.Sc., Ph.D. 48 Burrundah Road, Jindalee, Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering, University of Queensland.