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FEBRUARY 11, 1971
MORUYA EXAMINER

Worse than 1925, 1934

The most disastrous floods in the history of the Far South Coast have left an aftermath of damage assessed at more than \$4,000,000

Havoc estimated in excess of \$200,000 alone, has been done to Morodalla Shire roads, bridges and installations by an unprecedented deluge of up to 30 inches which has swept the area since last Tuesday.

Damage to homes and other properties would be this amount.

Many river flat and low lying farms have a residue of silt and sand up to three feet in depth and farmers estimate that it may be two years before this valuable soil can produce again.

There have been bigger floods, notably in 1925 and 1934 but because of the intensity of the rainfall this time the destruction was greater.

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Quiet creeks were transformed into violent torrents, sometimes in a matter of minutes, sweeping away great trees and wrecking bridges and roads.

Many people narrowly escaped the walls of water and debris.

Fortuitously the power of the on-rush was so great that bars at the entrance to rivers were churned away allowing the waters to flow out to sea. Had this not happened backing up would have inundated tremendous areas.

The floods emphasised the timelessness of arterial highways on the coast.

There were not alternative routes to the Princes Highway, and cut in many places numerous communities and travellers were isolated.

The three mountain roads to inland areas were blocked. A landslide on the Clyde Mountain road was quickly cleared but the Araluen and Brown Mountain roads are still blocked.

water swirled across the road.

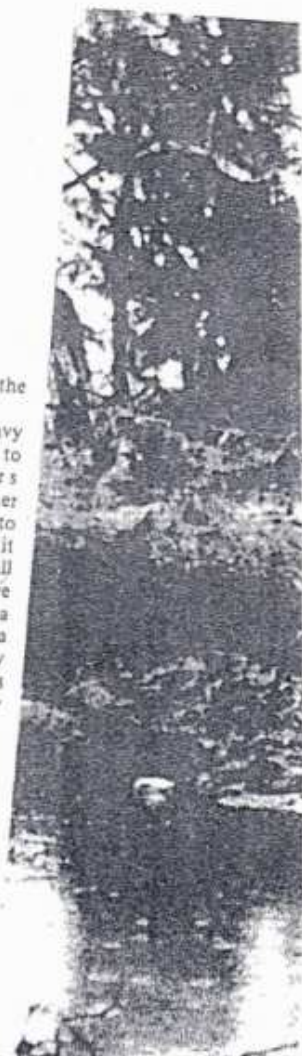
On Sunday a navy helicopter was called to Narooma to lift Mrs Olive Cannon and her newly born child to Batemans Bay where it landed on the football ground. Mrs Cannon gave berth to the child, a daughter at Narooma Ambulance Station. They were taken by Batemans Bay ambulance to the Bay hospital.

Even Vulcan Street had its alert.

Water rushed into the cellars of the Moruya Hotel on Friday and the licensee, Mr Bob McClymont called the Moruya Bush Fire Brigade.

The brigade pumped out more than 4000 gallons during the morning. Pumping continued throughout the weekend.

Mr McClymont said he particularly wished to thank Mr Graham Alexander and Mr Sandy Foreman of the brigade for their timely assistance.



Marooned at Comerang, Bob Wilton and Mr and Mrs...

appeal by resident g, the reservation South Beale left for ge on ld Mr e was o meet 10,000 perty. l that d him gated State ef to hout local ority that tate per on the lod an 00 to Mr at ct is e

blocked. The Princes Highway was blocked when Mogo Creek rose 20 feet on Friday, school buses hastily returned to Batemans Bay.

their timely assistance. Least affected of the three Ridings was "A" Riding where most of the damage was in minor scouring. All roads in the Riding are now open with the exception of the

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SOIL DAMAGE

The half-mile stretch at Mullenderee was covered to a depth of three feet throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Tow truck operators rallied to the aid of stranded travellers and several hundred vehicles were towed through the floodwaters.

Most in demand was a four-wheel trailer which floated cars through. This was organised by Mr Graham Vidgen of Vidgen Motors who donated the two fees to the United Motor Sport Club (\$50) and to the Moruya Surf Club \$25.

Operators, Colin Dakin and Bob Laverty gave their services free.

There were also two trucks in operation north of Bodalla near the Crapp farm where several feet of

Bolaro area where there has been damage to creek crossings.

The greatest part of the damage was in the sector south of Mogo.

In "B" Riding there are no bridges out but at Burra Point some culverts have gone and roads are damaged. The aerodrome - Broulee Road and the Araluen Road are closed. Access to the Congo and Maringo roads is also impossible.

"C" Riding was the worst hit.

The Corunna bridge approach has disappeared and the Tilba-Wagonga Road has gone. The 48-inch pipe cluvert at Dalmeny Road has been washed out and there could be further breaches in the road.

There has also been
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considerable blockage to the Old Princes Highway, Potato Point Road, Scenic Drive, Dalmeny-Narooma Road, Cooper's Island Road, Eurobodalla Road and Reedy Creek Road. Most of the trouble on these roads has been through fallen trees and washed out culverts.

The shire pumping station on the Tuross River is under water and the supply could be dislocated for a month, shire engineers reported.

The engineers have plans to make other arrangements to get water to residences usually serviced by the pumping station.

One local farmer has offered his pumps to the council during the emergency.

Tilba has also been

without water but a main is expected to be fixed today.

The worst flooding in the district was at Bodalla where the Tuross River rose 50 feet and backing up, inundated 90 per cent of the farmlands.

Police headed by Sergeant Dudley and assisted by the Civil Defence Organisation with Ken Burke and Ken Chapman leading, did a sterling job in evacuating families by boat and supplying isolated homesteads with food.

Among those evacuated were, the Ted Motbey family whose home was three feet under water, the Wiltons and Collins families of Comerang.

Roy Boxcell of Silo farm whose farm was isolated by a huge expanse of water is believed to have lost most of his 200 pigs.

Luckily the bar at the entrance to the Tuross River was gouged out to a width of a quarter of a mile

allowing water to escape to the sea.

But many of the Bodalla fields, some of the most fertile in the State will be covered with sand when the waters recede.

The Mumbulla Shire President, Cr R.J. Allen estimated damage in the shire at more than \$1,000,000 and added that the figure could be much greater.

He said that 30 bridges in the shire had probably been destroyed.

Twenty-five bridges in the Cobargo area had been damaged and Cobargo was without water supply.

In Imlay Shire the position was similar with 400 feet of pipeline which supplied water to Candelo, Merimbula and Eden washed away.

The largest bridge in the district the Hancock Bridge built about eight years ago at a cost of \$300,000 collapsed.

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