
Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Mini Newsletter, April 2011

Sympathy to all who've suffered from droughts, flooding rains, earthquakes and tsunamis – from Victoria to Queensland, from New Zealand to Japan. Dreadful events.

We don't know how CBers fared. Please let us know. Bruce Bentwitch was concerned about Queensland members Olive Williams and Jean Robertson so wrote to them. Helen Kenny rang Les and Eunice Smith, producers of Newsletter. They live at North Ipswich. TV News showed Ipswich railway station looking like an Olympic pool. Fortunately, the water did not reach their house, but they were cut off for six days, could not get in or out, had no power for six days and no phone for four. This was hardship, but mercifully they were spared tragedy.

Olive Williams of Withcott, near Toowoomba, was on Christmas holidays with family, and could not get home because roads into Toowoomba were closed.

When she did return, "I did not suffer – much water around the place, but son Phillip could not get into his property and came and stayed at No. 17," (her home). He was just ahead of water coming down the Range and dug drains where water was lying.

"There was such tragedy. My young friend Wendy lost her husband and house – swept away. She was on her way to Toowoomba. By the time she arrived her husband and house were gone. She is being strong, but he, with many others, has not been found. 'Tis sad, very sad. I try not to dwell on the loss of lives and damage from floods but by prayers".

.....

Jean Robertson of Toowoomba, thanked Bruce for his letter. "Nice of you to think of me," she wrote. "I could not believe what was happening ... the city received 6-8 inches of rain in less than an hour. The drains could not cope. The city was a wreck. Towns below the Range – Helidon looked like a bomb had hit. Grantham was completely washed away." She added: "Glad to hear Helen is home. She'll need care."

.....

Thank you Jean. I'm getting it, and hope to make the Anzac Day lunch in Sydney. One of my carers, Sayuri, is from Japan. Her family is safe.

Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Mini Newsletter, April 2011

Thanks to kind CBers who visited me in hospital, sent cards, and lent books to this omnivorous reader. Hope to thank you personally and return the books on Anzac Day. Have booked into the Marriott again. Signing off now with an eccentric XXOO . Helen Kenny

If you finish the march early, and find the room at the Marriott not ready, Gordon Gibson suggests meeting first at a quiet and pleasant pub nearby. It's the Macquarie Boutique Hotel, 42 Wentworth Avenue, just across Oxford Street.

.....

VALE – Trevor Winn, 1947-2010. The SMH reported the death of this “artist, raconteur, and fire fighter,” who was the elder son of well-remembered CBers Stan and Marion Winn. Like his parents he helped others – and was captain of the Laguna (NSW) fire brigade, commanding it through many bushfires, knowing every ridge and gully of this isolated area. After a surfing accident, he'd lost his sense of smell, so would say to a junior crew member: “Let me know when you smell smoke, laddie!”

The towns of Wollombi and Laguna have a population of nearly 1000. About 800 came to his funeral. Rural Fire Service trucks led a five kilometre line of cars and 300 volunteer firefighters wore yellow overalls to say their last goodbye.

Helen Kenny,
Publicity Officer,
27/1-3 Mackenzie Street,
LAVENDER BAY NSW 3060 Ph (02) 9954-0940

Watch ABC TV
21st April 8.30pm
Girls Over Wat Stones