

The floods in pictures



THE lower level car park of the Maquarie Court units in Phillip Street was flooded to about two metres.



TURBULENCE opposite David Jones where sandbags were used to stop water entering the lower ground floor and loading dock.



A VIEW from the southern bank of the river looking at the Barry Wilde Bridge.



THE footbridge east of Barry Wilde Bridge. Onlookers jumped in fright when heavy laden debris smashed it.

Reports compiled by Red Dwyer and Tom Olsen

Water flooded 200 metres either side of the river.....

The deluge which turned the normally placid Parramatta River into a raging torrent for 24 hours struck the city with little warning last Saturday. The river began to rise by Friday evening but nobody expected a recurrence of the floods in August 1986.

Even after 12 days of continuous rain at the beginning of April only minor flooding occurred.

Waterlogged ground was one reason advanced for the torrents through the city.

Flooding was most evident along a 600 metre stretch of the river between the Marsden Street Dam and the Charles Street Weir, and by Queens Wharf Park.

As the torrent thundered over the dam wall at Marsden Street the historic 152 year old Lennox Bridge took the full brunt of its power.

The muddy, debris laden onslaught rose about four metres as it hit the stone bridge before funneling its way through the single 30 metre arch.

The boiling water surged out the other side past David Jones department store and flooded to a width of 200 metres as it raced towards the Charles Street Weir.

The storeroom of the Copper Canyon restaurant was flooded causing at least \$70,000 worth of damage.

The water scoured the banks of the river below the Parramatta Cultural Centre and a car park opposite.

Sandbags were used to stop water entering the ground floor level of David Jones and a loading dock.

The force of the water buckled the wire fences and gates of the David Jones carpark leaving mud 10 centimetres deep to be cleared away when the river subsided.

Water entered the storeroom of Barnaby's restaurant and flooded the lower level of the basement carpark of Macquarie Court, at 70 Phillip Street to a depth of nearly two metres.

Spectators on the footbridge east of the Barry Wilde Bridge jumped in fright as the boiling water threw up wooden telegraph poles, tree trunks and 44 gallon drums to smash against its steel stanchions.

The force of the water flattened light stands and council parking signs, uprooted young trees and littered the mangroves opposite Queens Wharf Park with plastic streamers to a height of two metres above normal water level.

The torrent's force was so strong that it formed a wall of water two metres high across the entire width of the footway under the Barry Wilde Bridge.

The flood reached a peak of about three metres around 1pm on Saturday.

By Sunday morning the flood waters had receded to nearly one metre above its usual level.

Water levels were nearly back to normal by Monday morning.

THE historic 152 year old Lennox Bridge took the full brunt of the torrent. Muddy, debris laden water funnelled through a single 30 metre arch.