

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE deserve a good policy, a good insurance adviser — and a good Insurance Company

Rely on... House Contents
 Business Boat
 Travel Vehicle

Including discounts for the over 60s.
 Medical Life
 Superannuation

Royal Insurance Centre

Graeme West NN 83132 — 159 Hardy Street

Motueka ~ Golden Bay NEWS

Tuesday, August 14, 1990

FUJI PROCESSING
 ENJOY THE QUALITY AT...
CHRIS BUDGEN PHARMACY

0631070

Mud pile roars down on house

By Ian Gill

The occupants of a house at the foot of Takaka Hill were sent running on Saturday night after a huge volume of mud, water, logs and boulders roared down out of a gully sweeping two cars away and stranding a truck.

Chris and Lyn Drummond had already cleaned up one flash flood that filled their swimming pool and surrounded their house with mud and debris earlier on Saturday afternoon.

Mr Drummond said: "We thought we would be all right for the night."

"It must have been around 7pm when we heard a terrific roar up in the hill and I yelled to Lyn to get the hell out of it."

"I just had time to slam the door shut as all the muck came in."

"It was dark at the time and all you could hear was the roar."

"Just as it came a couple of guys in a truck arrived and they saw it all coming and tried to turn around in the middle of the road and they got stuck."

Mr Drummond said two cars parked in his garage were swept 50 metres down the road, becoming jammed with debris against the stranded truck.

He said the truck and cars acted like a dam to send mud and water cascading over the edge of the road down into his sheds, a bach and into his kiwifruit orchard.

"A petrol tank has been tipped over and a diesel tank washed away," he said.

Mr Drummond estimates five of his 12 hectares of kiwifruit are covered in water and silt.

He counted himself lucky that massive boulders washed down from the gully had been deflected from the house by a small bank otherwise the house would have been "smashed to pieces", he said.

Both he and his wife spent the night at Mr Drummond senior's house.

On Sunday morning Riwaka rugby club members, friends and family gathered to help clean up.

Mud had gone through part of the house nearest to the deluge and the backyard looked like a bomb site.

Riwaka received "a bit of sunshine" yesterday after almost 300mm of rain at the weekend, reported DSIR Riwaka of-

ficer in charge Dr Ron Beatson.

From 9am Friday until 9am Saturday 138.1mm was recorded at the DSIR, while a further 148.2mm fell from 9am Saturday to 9am Sunday. Only 5.5mm of rain fell from 9am Sunday to 9am yesterday, Dr Beatson said.

Two hectares of land at the Riwaka DSIR were flooded, but water was draining away, he said.

As plants were dormant at this time of the year, he expected little damage.

Luckily the Brooklyn Stream and the Little Sydney Stream had kept within their banks, he said.

In the mid 1970s a fall of 150mm within only 12 hours had caused the largest flood in the area for some time.

The Nelson-Marlborough Regional Council will ask the Government for extra funds to help repair damaged farmland and stopbanks, council chairman Cr Len Ardell said today.

Cr Ardell said it will take at least a week before an accurate assessment of the damage caused by the weekend's heavy rain can be made.

The council had about \$200,000 in a flood damage account but this will only be enough to begin most repair work and get equipment on site.

Cr Ardell said damage was widespread with many unstable hillslopes, damaged river and stream stopbanks and agricultural land badly eroded by flood water.

The Tasman district had been hit hard and Marlborough would also need some costly repairs but total damage would not be evident until water levels receded, Cr Ardell said.



Above: A car is lifted out of debris after being swept down a gully at the bottom of the Takaka hill on Saturday night by mud, logs and boulders. Below: Swamp Rd residents fill up a sandbag in an effort to stop silt from a slip getting into a neighbouring property. Both photographs by Ian Gill.



RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE deserve a good policy, a good insurance adviser — and a good Insurance Company.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vehicle

Including discounts for the over 60s.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superannuation	

Royal Insurance Centre

Graeme West NN 83132 — 159 Hardy Street

Motueka-Golden Bay NEWS

Tuesday, August 28, 1990

Be in to win a Boat with Old Spice!
Great Father's Day Gift purchases from
Chris Budgen Pharmacy
1628080

Flood to remember whatever cause

by Deirdre Mackay

The 1990 flood will be remembered for the incredible damage it wreaked on the land from the Owen River in the south to Golden Bay in the north.

During the emergency one man lost his life, many suffered damage to their buildings, cars and houses, 55 people were evacuated from their homes and countless individuals suffered damage to their land.

Opinions differ as to whether it was worse than the floods of 1976 and 1983, but most agree it was quite different.

Flood control engineer for the Nelson-Marlborough Regional Council, Mr Doug Nottage, said the floods this time were not extreme even though damage was extensive.

"We didn't get the high intensities of rain recorded in previous floods. In 1976 45mm of rain was recorded in one hour, the highest intensity recorded this time was 18mm in an hour."

Mr Nottage said many rivers overflowed only because they were filled with silt from slips caused by earlier rain. The damage sustained by river beds was a direct result of the extended length of time that the banks were full.

"In 1983 the Motueka River maintained a level of 4.2 metres at

the Woodstock monitoring point for 21 hours.

"In 1990 the same level was held for 39 hours.

"The damage to river beds comes when bank-full stage is reached. That point was maintained for almost twice as long in 1990 as in 1983," said Mr Nottage.

The heaviest rainfalls in the region were recorded on Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12. They fell on land already water logged from the weeks before.

During these two days damage was not limited to flooding. It soon became apparent that huge landslides posed the greatest threat.

Vast slips were reported in the hinterlands of western Tasman Bay.

People who have lived all their lives in the region were astounded at the cumulative effect of weeks of rain.

An 83-year-old weather watcher from Dehra Doon, Mr Russ Goodall where one of the larger slips occurred, says he has recorded rainfall in the valley for 30 years.

"Never in all that time has there been 11½ inches (300mm) in a month since I've kept records. This August we've already had 22 inches (559mm)."

Mr Goodall said over the weekend of the floods 330mm fell.

"This fell onto absolutely sodden land. A week before we'd had over five inches (130mm), then we had

only three fine days before the big rain."

The resulting slips were the worst he's ever seen, and there have been a few over the years. Two weeks after the emergency he says that water is still oozing out of the hills.

Reports of high rainfall on the Saturday and Sunday were recorded right throughout the region; Woodstock 270mm, Baton 235mm, Motueka Gorge 154mm, Wairoa Gorge 150mm and Harwood's (Upper Takaka) 179mm.

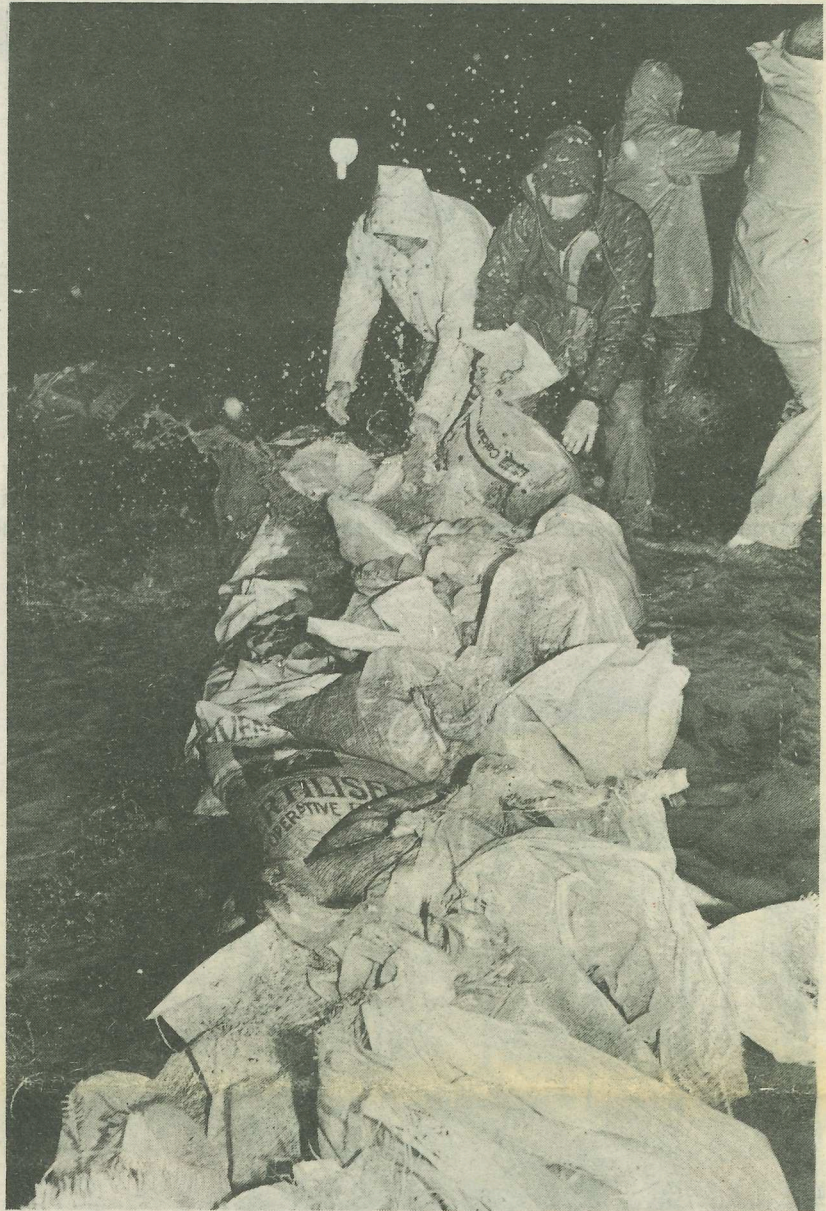
The most dramatic flooding occurred in Riwaka as a result of two breaches in the stopbanks of the Riwaka River on Sunday.

As flood waters swept through kiwifruit blocks, houses were threatened and eventually 12 homes had to be evacuated.

Continued over page.

● Motueka-Golden Bay News journalist Ian Gill, who took many photographs of the floods, captured these two scenes, one during the rainstorm and the other showing the after-effects.

At right workers try to hold back the Riwaka River at the Kai-teriteri turn-off on the night of Saturday, August 11. Below: Joy and John Bradley surrounded by the silt and debris dumped around their house at Dehra Doon.



Counselling available for flood victims

The Motueka Counselling Service is providing two counsellors for flood victims who need someone to talk to.

The co-ordinator of the Motueka service, Mrs Janet Robinson said the Social Welfare Department in Nelson requested their help.

A room has been made available in the nurses' hostel at the Phyllis Moffat Hospital between 2pm and 3.30pm on Tuesdays and 9.30am and 11am on Wednesdays. Mrs Robinson said each appointment will be for 1½ hours, and the free service will be available as long as it is required.

Mrs Robinson said there is often resistance to counselling because people think they are going to be told what to do.

"We are not there to tell, we are there to listen. People need to talk about their problems, not to get direction from us but so they can form their own ideas while they are talking."

In some cases the counsellor may be able to help individuals by referring them to other agencies.

"We can point them in the direction of specialists in the field required."

This can range from budget advice to an appointment with a doctor.

Mrs Robinson said often counsellors can not help with the actual problem people come in with, but can improve their self-esteem to the extent that they are in a better position to deal with it.

The service has built up a wealth of experience in the 10 years it has been operating. It has always been a voluntary organisation, offering free and confidential counselling for those in need of it.

"Our counsellors have intensive, ongoing training which is provided by the Justice Department and national marriage guidance. They have to keep up with current developments and take regular refresher courses."

Before they are accepted as counsellors individuals must show that their personalities and philosophies are compatible with the job.

"We are not promoting any kind of beliefs, just love, care and maturity in relationships."

In the 10 years she has been associated with the service Mrs Robinson has seen an increase in stress from economic sources particularly in the last five years.

She also said the change in women's roles had put additional stress on to men.

"The change puts a threat on some men, they are no longer quite sure what they are supposed to be doing."

Mrs Robinson said the Motueka Counselling Service used to incorporate budget and legal advice as well as marriage and family counselling. But in recent years budget advice became too large so it was set up separately.

The service runs on grants and donations. The main expenses are the running costs for counsellors and toll calls.

Flood cuts roads

From page one.

Meanwhile massive slips had occurred on the Takaka Hill, Marahau Valley Rd, Dehra Doon and in the Little Sydney and Brooklyn valleys. At Honeymoon Bay a house was tipped onto the road below by a landslide.

Flood water covered the Moutere Highway, and Jubilee Bridge, leaving one lane of the coastal highway as the sole road link between Motueka and the outside world.

Takaka was not so lucky. Its road was completely cut, marooning the population of 5000 for a week.

Flood waters and landslides took their toll on power and telephone supplies. Many people were without both of these services for days.

In the two weeks since the emergency there has been time to assess the damage and count the cost of the devastation.

Tasman district damage recovery co-ordinator, Mr Ken Beck added up the figure late last week.

He said the estimate of damage to horticultural land came to \$220,000, while pastoral and arable land suffered to the tune of \$430,000. Transit New Zealand, (which is responsible for state highways), put the cost

of restoration work on the Takaka Hill at \$1 million. Tasman District Council estimates its costs including repair of water supplies at \$1.3 million.

The regional council also has to find \$1.55 million to repair waterways, rivers and drainage systems, plus \$250,000 for soil stabilisation which brings total damage close to \$5 million.

Mr Beck said a number of applications have been made for government assistance. So far \$165,000 has been granted for the disaster recovery employment scheme and \$25,000 to help meet the costs of clearing minor drains and roadsides.

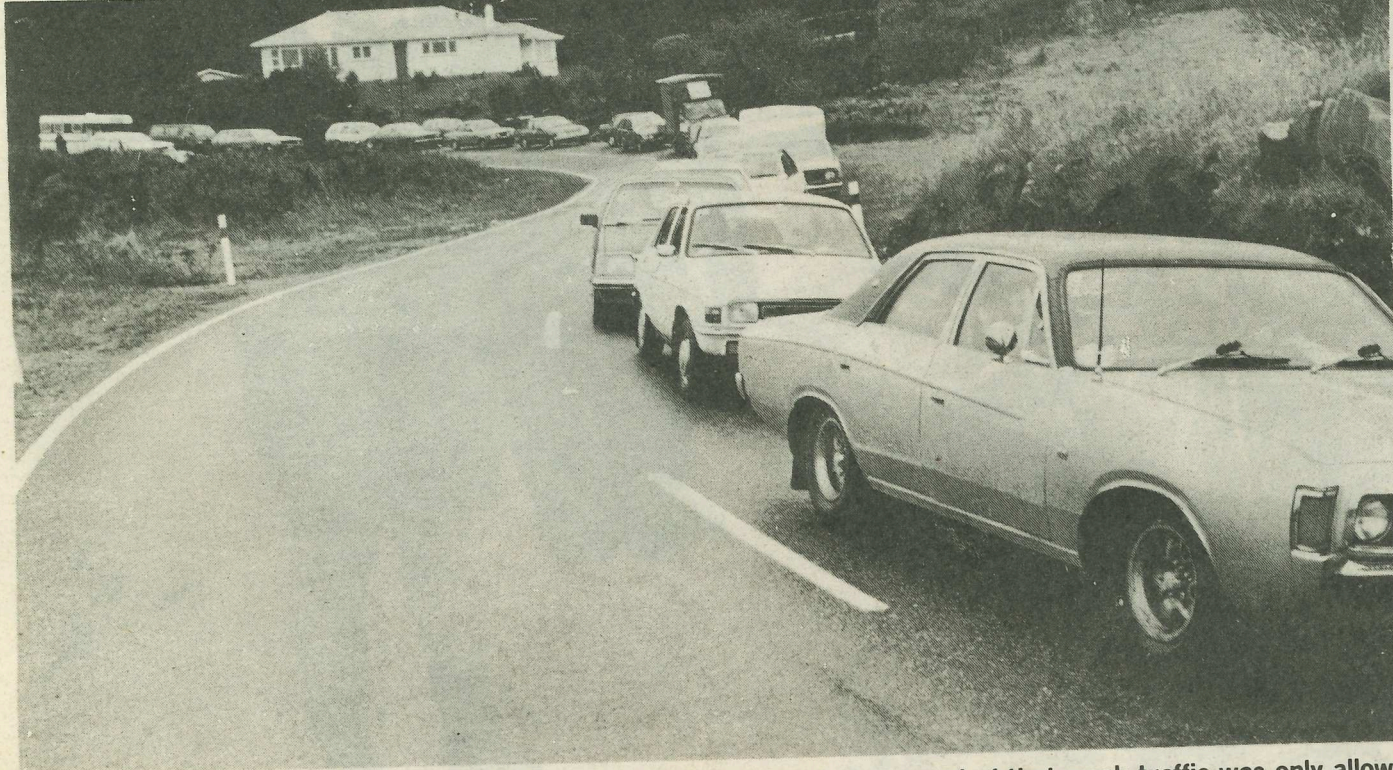
Farmers hope to get 25 per cent of their damage estimate from the Government to help them on their way.

He estimates that the Takaka Hill will take more than a year to fully restore and many other hillsides will also take months to stabilise.

For Civil Defence staff the last week has been time to assess performance and there has been a rapid response to strengthen weak links in the chain. Already Riwaka has established its sub-headquarters to be better equipped to cope with any future emergencies.



Above: A slip pushed this back on its side at Honeymoon Bay near Kaiteriteri. Below: Flood water and silt submerged this hop garden. Flood relief workers have been working since to remove the silt from this paddock and many others before plant life is killed through lack of oxygen — Photos IAN GILL



Slips closed the Takaka Hill road to Golden Bay for a week and at the end of that week traffic was only allowed through in convoys. Golden Bay reporter Mike Bryan took this photograph of one of them.

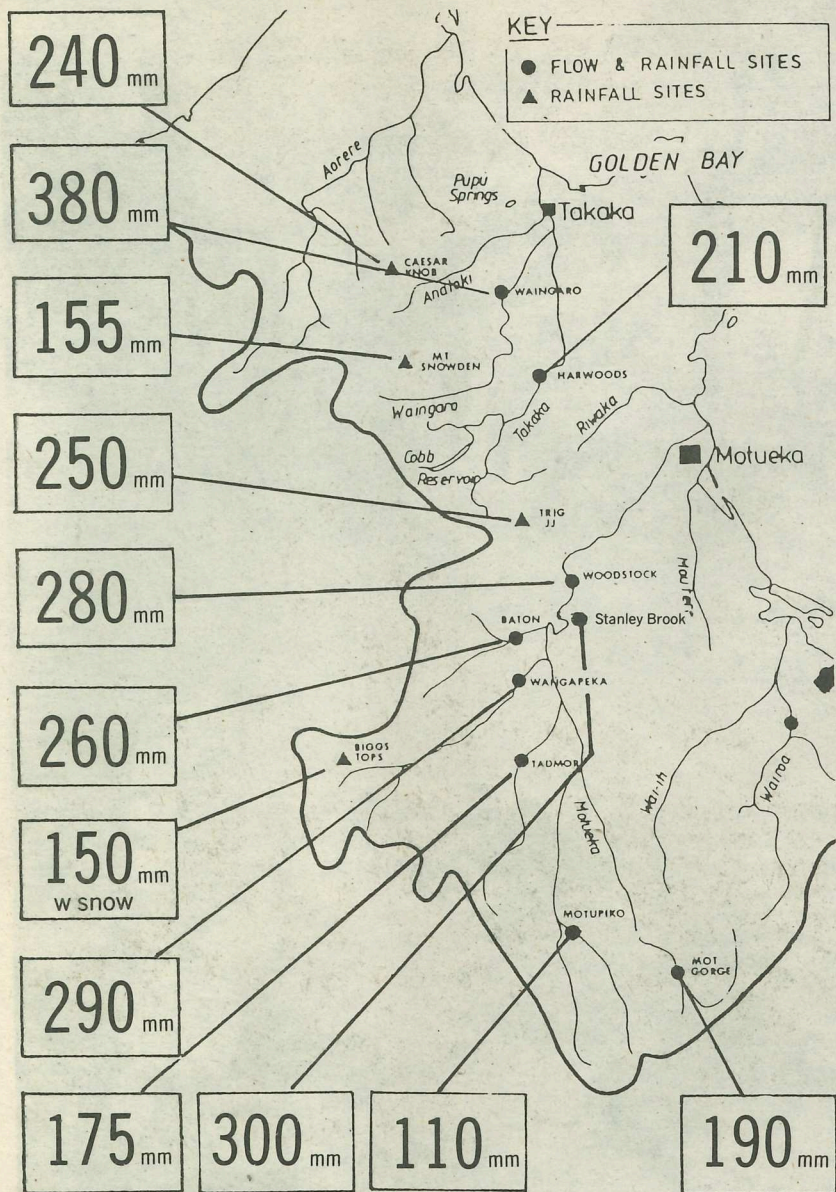


Clockwise from top left: A car is lifted out of debris after being swept down a gully at the bottom of the Takaka Hill by mud, logs and boulders.

Workers clear a slip in Dehra Doon. Paul Pollard, Riwaka, found rowing visitors to and from his house easier than trying to wade through the deep water.

Albie Soper sandbagged his house before high tide on Saturday. Later he had to be evacuated from his house on the main road at Riwaka. Ian Gill photographs.





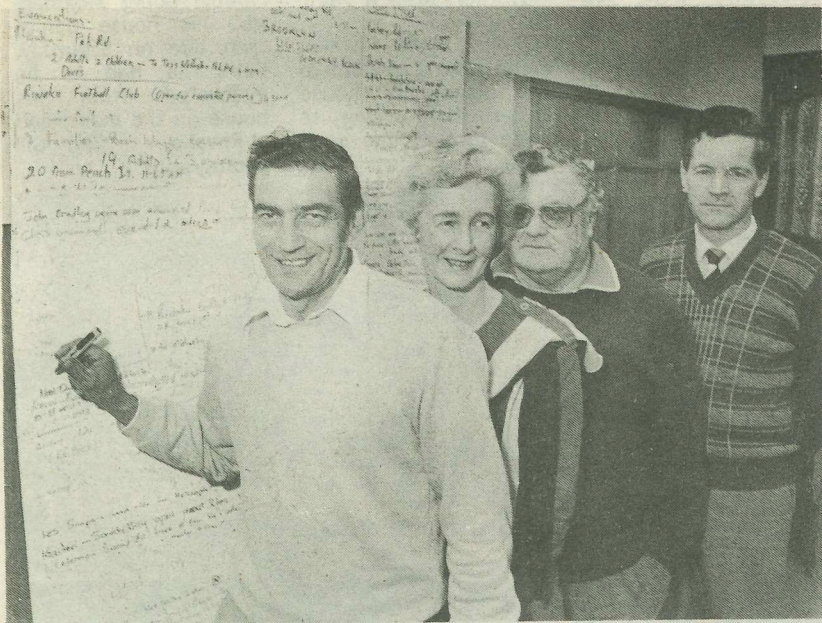
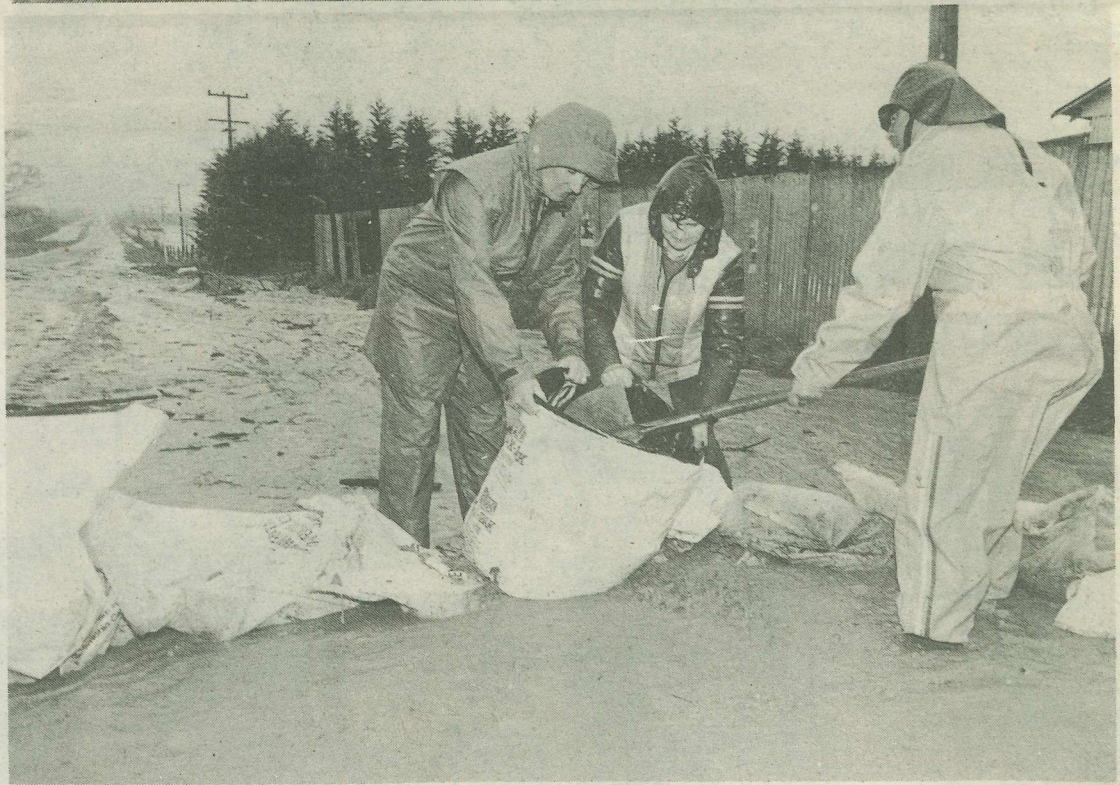
Relatively lighter falls of rain in the hills at the head of the Motueka River saved Motueka from "going under", the regional council hydrologist, Mr Martin Doyle reported.

In the hills 150mm was recorded.

At the council's flood warning station at Woodstock 280mm fell, easily topping the highest level expected in

a statistical 100-year flood. Of that 250mm fell in 36 hours on already saturated ground. Slightly upstream at Stanley Brook 305mm fell in 48 hours.

At the Riwaka DSIR research station 293mm fell far more than the 237mm in the 1983 floods, but the river rose higher because of heavy falls further up the river.



Further flood scenes

Above: These are some of the people that kept in touch with flood-stricken people by telephone and helped co-ordinate relief. From left Mr Kelvin Bradley (Civil Defence), Mrs Mary Lafrenz (Civil Defence), Mr Tony Fry (community board) and Mr Charles Prattley (Civil Defence staff officer). — Photo COLIN SMITH

Top right: Apple and kiwifruit farmer Mr Alan Moss ponders the clean-up job ahead by the Little Sydney Valley stream. — Photo COLIN SMITH

The Minister of Civil Defence, Mrs Margaret Austin, flew in to see the flood damage. With her are the MP for Tasman, Mr Ken Shirley and the Civil Defence co-ordinator, Mr Ken Beck. — Photo CAROL GREEN

Above right: Swamp Valley residents fill bags with silt to try to stop overflow from the Little Sydney River pouring onto properties. — Photo IAN GILL

Right: Mr Jim Robertson (right) attaches a rope to his Land Rover to winch the station-wagon through a slip on the Totaranui road. — Photo MIKE BRYAN

