

Ineasiness truce with river

Floodwaters were receding on the Heretaunga Plains today, but with further heavy rain showers still expected a close watch was being kept on the Ngaruroro River which yesterday burst through a stopbank at Twyford forcing a dozen families to flee their homes.

Christmas deluge

More than 146mm of rain have fallen in the Napier and Hastings area since Christmas Eve in one of the wettest Christmas periods in memory.

Napier recorded a higher total rainfall than Hastings in the past five days, with 146.8mm falling in Napier and 130.4mm in Hastings.

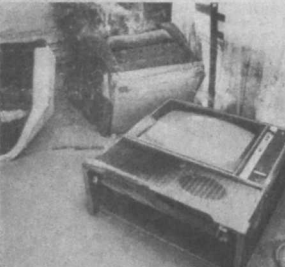
Though Napier recorded 29.0mm overnight on Christmas Day and Hastings 25.3mm, the heaviest overnight recordings came on Saturday when Napier had 32.5mm and Hastings had 19.5mm.

Saturday night's downpour added another 63.6mm to Napier's total and Hastings recorded 62.0mm.

Last night another 16.4mm fell in Napier and 10mm in Hastings.



● The spirit of the Twyford Rd farmers during yesterday's flood held together well as this sign in the downstairs window of Mr Frank Curd's house shows.



● A television set lies on its back on 150mm of silt in the lounge of Mr and Mrs Brian Rohleder's home in Twyford Rd.

'Lack of action' angers farmer

Twyford farmer Mr Brian Rohleder wants to "get to the bottom" of what he calls lack of action by authorities in the Twyford flood.

"I rang the police at about 8.30am yesterday and they said they would have someone out immediately to help us. I never saw them.

"If it hadn't been for our neighbours we would still have been on the roof of our house," he said.

Mr Rohleder's neighbours took the family from the property.

Mr Rohleder said he had punched a hole in his roof after phoning the police.

"By the time I had put the receiver back onto the phone, the phone was floating.

"I didn't know how deep the flood was going to be so I punched a hole in the roof in the laundry and put the family and the dog up there," he said.

"We were taken to the county council rooms but they didn't keep a register of people who were evacuated so we don't know if we could contact people or if the

telephones were still connected," he said.

"I guess I panicked. But I felt I had to do something quickly because the water was rising so fast," he said.

Mr Rohleder was disappointed with the rescue exercise, as were his neighbours Mr Bob Galloway and his wife Diane.

"I don't know what they were doing but we didn't see them," said Mr Galloway.

Mr Galloway and his family were busy tidying up their house and orchard today.

Silt covered the floor of their house.

Mr Rory Smith, whose farm, along with Mr Rohleder's, took most of the initial force of flood, would not comment on the damage to his property.

He and a group of neighbours moved back on to the property at about 9.30am today to clear the fences of sheep carcasses.

One bridge on Twyford road collapsed in the flood and neighbours erected planks across the gap to take out possessions and cars which had been stranded.

Most of the owners were back on their properties today, faced with a massive clean-up and the loss of thousands of dollars of income from destroyed crops.

The flood inundated 1000 hectares of some of the world's most fertile land which is intensively farmed with a wide diversity of crops including peas, beans, tomatoes, onions, fruit, small pockets of sheep and cattle and two small deer farms.

About 750 sheep and lambs died in the floodwaters, but the major loss will be from crops.

Hawke's Bay Catchment Board workers today were halting the trickle of water still coming through the breached stopbank and will continue building it up as the weather and conditions permit.

The board's deputy chief engineer, Mr David Hamilton, estimated that the 120-metre breach would take 10,000 cubic metres of fill and two weeks to complete.

The Ngaruroro yesterday was running at its highest level for 43 years, but by this morning had dropped 1.8 metres from yesterday's 6am peak.

Water poured through the gap and spread in a huge lake in a kilometre-wide path which by yesterday afternoon had crossed Pakowhai Rd between Ellwood Rd and Ruahapia Rd.

Pakowhai Rd was closed and by late last night the floodwaters had spread across the top end of Ruahapia Rd to a depth of 0.75 metres.

However, shortly after 11pm catchment board workmen succeeded in cutting a gap through the old Ngaruroro stopbank in the Pakowhai Country Park to divert some of the flow into the Clive River.

This, and the falling river level, resulted in a dramatic fall in the floodwaters. By 8am today all major roads were open.

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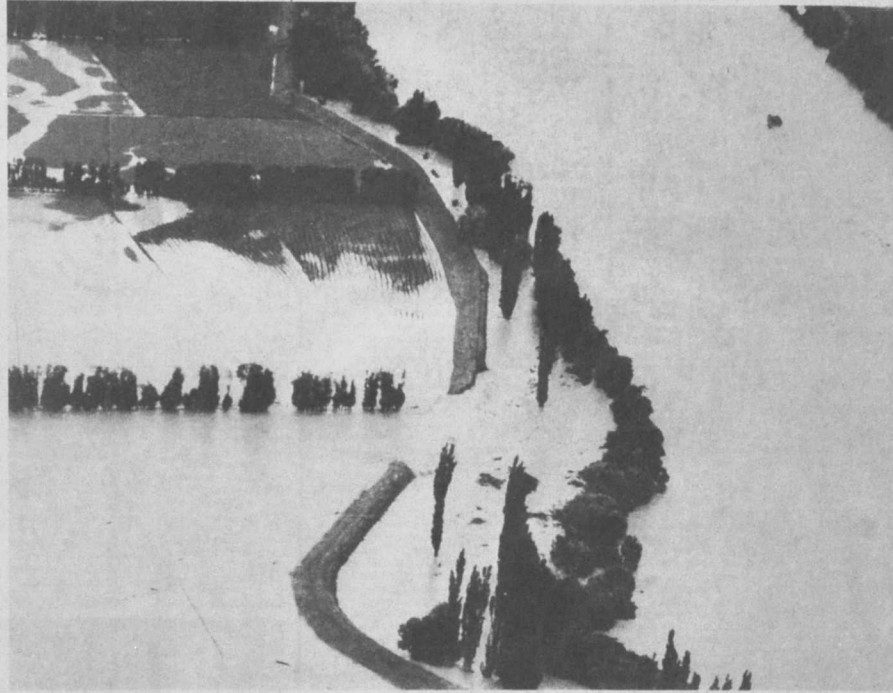
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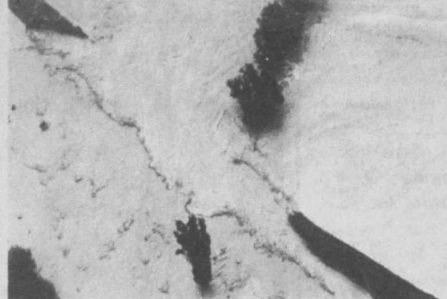
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● Tonnes of flood water pour through the breach in the Ngaruroro River stopbank. The breach widened yesterday morning to be about 120 metres across.



● Foaming brown floodwater swirled through the stopbank and on to farms on Twyford Rd.



● Three Twyford Rd farmers returned to their properties this morning along a flood-damaged road. Water had ripped up tarseal roads and damaged a bridge.

Co-operation was 'first-class'

The chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council, Mr M. E. Groome, today praised the co-operation of all those involved in yesterday's flood emergency.

Co-operation between the county, Hawke's Bay Catchment Board, Hastings City Council, police, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and civil defence personnel "was absolutely first-class."

Even more important was the co-operation received from the flood victims and it was because of this that the situation has been handled without the necessity of declaring a state of emergency.

Mr Groome said a state of emergency would have been declared if it had become absolutely necessary, but it was better if it could be avoided.

"Once you declare a state of emergency you start ordering people about and they don't like that," said Mr Groome.

Mr Groome said the people of Hawke's

Bay could rest assured that the civil defence system in the region had proved to be 100 per cent.

He said the county, with its radio equipped vehicles, could bring a civil defence operation into use immediately a disaster occurred.

Mr Groome said the flood also demonstrated the knife-edge the people of the Heretaunga Plains lived on.

Flood protection work by the catchment board has removed many of the flooding dangers from the plains — but we have been taking from the plains for years and every now and again nature is going to take something back.

Damage to farmland would be considerable, but Mr Groome said there would be some beneficial side-effects in the future, although these would probably not be appreciated by victims at the moment.

The hard-worked farmland would be rejuvenated by the silt and valuable elements spread by the floodwaters, said Mr Groome.

Key men behind operation

Two meetings yesterday, and another this morning, of key personnel co-ordinated the flood-emergency operation on the Heretaunga Plains.

The meetings, all held at the Hawke's Bay County Council's Omaha Rd depot, were chaired by Chief Inspector John Perring, Hastings Police.

Also in attendance were Mr M. E. Groome, chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council, Mr Doug Walker, senior police and traffic officers, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries staff, senior engineering staff from both the county, catchment board and Hastings City Council, and reporters.

Under them were at least 75 other people directly involved in various aspects of the operation.

The county had between 15 and 20 men out in the field, the catchment board about 25, the police 12 and Ministry of Transport 10.

Each meeting assessed the situation, based on the reports from all the various agencies, and planned the next phase of operations.

This morning's meeting was also attended by Sir Richard Harrison, the MP for Hawke's Bay, who praised the efforts of all concerned.



Baby is born after rescue

A front-end loader was called to the rescue of an expectant Kereau woman yesterday afternoon.

A former Miss Highland Games, Judith Trossler (left), was loaded into the bucket of a Hawke's Bay County Council loader to cross a flooded stream in front of a farmhouse.

She was met by friends and taken to Havelock North and to the Hastings hospital during the night, where her 8lb 2oz son was born at 5am today.

Mother — Miss Highland Games, Judith Trossler (left) — and baby are both well.

Workers hampered

Sightseers caused a major problem for emergency services during yesterday's flood.

Their cars blocked access to areas which emergency service workers and residents were trying to reach and added to the workload of traffic officers.

Despite appeals for sightseers to stay away carloads of people were still trying to get into the flooded area late last night.

Chief Inspector John Perring said today some of the people were trying to reach friends to help them, but others were just sightseeing.

"If they are going into the area they should leave their cars well away and walk," he said.

From Wellington today, the executive officer of the New Zealand Catchment Authorities Association, Mr W. M. Golden, said the flooding must highlight to the public the vital and continuing need for finance to maintain and, where necessary, up-grade river works as defences against such natural disasters.

"Although everyone knows that available funds are in short supply, as an agricultural nation in the main New Zealanders must accept and meet the need to protect the farmlands and those on them. This means money.

"My association has to battle every year to have this vital fact accepted and although the Government made further funding available recently it is imperative that adequate funds be provided annually."

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Flood-control scheme proves that it is value for money

LAST NIGHT, sitting in the comfort of their homes, Hastings people watching television saw rampaging flood waters only a mile or two from their homes. It needed only a moment's thought to realise what would have happened to the city had the flood-control system failed - or worse, if there had been no control system at all.

In search of fencing facts

Mr Editor: I must contest your comments on limiting access to private swimming pools. You say there are as many arguments against the fencing bylaw as there are for it. You have not substantiated this statement with any facts at all.

Letters

account for anywhere near the number of drownings that private swimming pools do and partly because of the potential for prevention is not there, in these miscellaneous areas. The question is whether or not limiting access to private swimming pools prevents drownings or not.

245T sprayers are cleared

reproductive outcomes," said Dr Smith. However, Dr Smith said exposure to these toxic chemicals should be kept to a minimum and that users should note that studies in Sweden had suggested that some of the chemicals might cause a rare form of cancer called soft tissue sarcoma.

Unsung hero is eager to return home

George Lowe, one of the unsung heroes of the 1952 conquest of Mt Everest is back in Hastings with an eye open for a job. Mr Lowe, 57, is on holiday here from his job as an inspector of schools in England to visit his brother, Ruben, a Tisbury orchardist.

Seeking food from the ice

Four New Zealand scientists are off to the Antarctic next week to research plankton, a source of protein which could feed the world's starving millions. They leave Wellington on the Benjamin Bowring next Monday.

Weather forecast

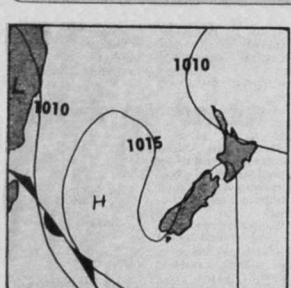


Table with weather symbols and 9 a.m. readings for temperature, wind, and rain across various locations like Hastings, Napier, and Wairoa.

Situation - A slow-moving anticyclone over the southern Tairāwhiti Sea and the south of New Zealand would maintain fine weather in the West Coast...

Forecast for Hawke's Bay - Fresh southerly winds with areas of rain today. The rain easing to showers overnight and easing tomorrow with moderate southerly gusts prevailing.

Fronts Weather Symbols, 9 a.m. readings, Tomorrow's Tides, and Sun/Moon data for Hastings Bay Airport.

Bank deposits on Saturdays

Mr Editor: I would like to point out a couple of facts which Mr Duckworth appears to have overlooked in his recent statement concerning trading banks making deposit facilities available on Saturdays for retailers.

Italians buy more NZ wool for rugs

More Italians than ever are sleeping soundly under New Zealand wool blankets. A joint campaign by the International Wool Secretariat and Italy's three biggest manufacturers has resulted in a 28 per cent sales increase.



George Lowe and his wife Mary with an ice axe and crampons used during the Mt Everest conquest.

Union leaders prefer me, says Mr Muldoon

The Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, does not rank himself No. 1 pinup politician with the trade union movement. But he does think he gets along with workers' representatives rather better than the "Left-wing intelligentsia" of the Labour Party.

Bombers to buzz Ohakea

The Ohakea air base will be "buzzed" by foreign bombers in February. United States and Australian Air Force planes are expected to take part in an Air Force Day 81 at Ohakea, near Bulls, on February 28.

Fruit gift with a message

The Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, today was to receive Newcastle's first-of-the-season Cromwell Gorge trout and a 2.3kg trout from the Aburri River courtesy of Ecology Action Otago.

Child bruised by chimp's handshake

A three-year-old girl has a badly bruised arm today after shaking hands with a chimpanzee at Nelson's natureland.

Thought for today

When returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them, and was incorporated away all these things in her heart. So Jesus grew both tall and wise, and was loved by God and man. Luke 2: 51, 52.

Reduction of powers 'a backward step'

Any moves to reduce the watchdog powers of the Commission for the Environment would be a backward step, according to the better environmentalists.

Mr Muldoon says 'I'm what's known in England as an HMI - Her Majesty's Inspector of schools'

"I'm what's known in England as an HMI - Her Majesty's Inspector of schools. It is the only inspectorate in England which is by Royal appointment. We're appointed by the Queen, and although we are paid by the Civil Service, much the same as Judges, we are put above the Government of the day."

Mr Muldoon says 'He is so forthcoming in his attitude towards them that, having been told Southdown would close, he told no one else'

Mr Lange said Mr Muldoon was not kidding himself about the claims - "He is trying to kid the public. He spent the first half of the year saying the Labour Party was dominated by the FOL and trade unions."

Mr Muldoon says 'The letter is signed by Mrs M. A. Colbert, secretary of Ecology Action Otago, on behalf of the president, Professor J. D. Omer-Cooper'

"The apriquets and the trout were to be delivered by courier to Mr Muldoon at his Hatfield's Beach holiday home in Auckland. This is an action to draw attention to the threats to our land and our people from present plans by the Government," Mrs Colbert said.

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Engineer sails away from flood

Hawke's Bay Catchment Board's engineer, Mr Peter Simons has plenty of water to contend with but it is in no way connected with the disastrous flooding in his catchment area.

Mr Simons is skipping his 30-foot keeler through drizzle and choppy seas somewhere off the East Cape, probably oblivious of yesterday morning's emergency at Twyford.

Mr Simons left Napier on Wednesday but, when about 12 miles into Hawke's Bay, rough seas and deteriorating weather forced his return. He regained port on Christmas evening.

Yesterday, about 5am, he took his keeler Elysium, accompanied by the keeler Rangimutu, out into the bay again, bound for Whitianga.

Two hours later the fresh in the Ngaruroro turned into flood and at 8am the stopbank at Twyford had been breached, causing a full alert of catchment board engineers and other technical staff.

It is possible that Mr Simons might be unaware of the Hawke's Bay flooding until he makes port at Whitianga - or unless he picks up a news broadcast.



● Rain over Christmas has meant a rather miserable time for camping holiday makers. However, those who decided to stay on and await some finer weather, managed to find ways of entertaining themselves. From left, Janine Cousins, 15, Havelock North, Richard Ballach, 16, Hastings,

Denise Rayner, 15, Carterton, Vaughan Ellis, 15, Ruakaka, Bridget Parker, 15, Hastings and Kim Garvey, 15, Havelock North, all decided that a poker game was the best way of forgetting the rain. The teenagers were staying at the Windsor Park camping ground, Hastings.

Disaster for crop farmers

Rain-battered crops on the Heretaunga Plains have sustained disastrous losses.

Ripening crops of peas and neqtaries are splitting, substantial areas of vegetable crops are ruined and losses in berry-fruit crops are put at up to \$7000 a hectare.

"Unfortunately we couldn't have had a worse situation than we have at the moment," said berry-fruit grower Mr Graham Velvin, Oak Rd, Twyford.

"Ripe boysenberries that haven't been picked because of the weather are rotting which is going to be prevalent. In weather like this morning, without sunshine and wind, even the green fruit is rotting."

known but was being assessed by field staff today.

Losses in green beans and peas would be smaller, he said.

Wattie's agricultural manager, Mr Stuart Thomas, said waterlogged paddocks made harvesting of peas impossible, and pea processing had been stopped at the Hastings factory.

Unilever was experiencing similar problems, although pea harvesting was proceeding in Central Hawke's Bay, said agricultural manager Mr Clarrie Napier.

The Hastings factory had previously been forced to stop processing peas when the harvesters had been unable to work.

He predicted crop losses in carrots and sweet peppers, in addition to the other crops.

Strawberry growers, in contrast, have been fortunate.

"Our losses are virtually nothing," said Mr Neil Manning, Ormond Rd.

His pickers, whom he praised, had worked through the rain and harvested ripening fruit which, since Christmas, went to processing factories.

He had, however, lost out on fresh market sales.

"There is no noticeable deterioration in the fruit because of the rain, but his shelf life is shortened," he said.

Rains have damaged early crops of neqtaries and desert peaches, but most growers have been fortunate.

Mr Norman Hope, Twyford, said early crops of neqtaries were not major crops.

"Our full force of neqtaries comes in two or three weeks. The rain shouldn't affect them at all."

He said neqtaries that were ripening were also swelling and splitting, which allowed brown rot to set in.

One grower of peaches said most growers were fortunate to have pickers taking fruit off trees before it became too damaged.

Another grower said apricots had split badly and splits were appearing in the early peach varieties of Dixie Red and Red Haven.

He estimated that about 50 per cent of the remaining boysenberries would be ruined. About one-third of the crop had been picked.

"This should be a lesson for would-be berry-fruit growers. It's not all been smooth sailing," Mr Velvin said.

"We are facing an element which we cannot control, which is the hardest thing to do in business," he said.

One newcomer to berry-fruit growing, Mr Stephen Brockett, Bridge Pa, estimated that 80 per cent of his boysenberry crop, without the benefit of mature shelter trees, was lost.

Before Christmas the crop was looking good and coming to its peak. Now he has lost \$6000 to \$7000 worth of berries, he said.

Mr Ian Taston, Hastings, said he was fortunate to have a mechanical harvester to pick good crops of blackberries and raspberries.

The machine was able to work until Saturday night and harvest at the equivalent rate of 50 pickers.

"Nothing can get on this land now. It even pulls your gumboots off," he said.

Vegetable growers with crops flooded by rivers or surface water are also expected to suffer losses.

Losses in tomato crops in Hastings and Gisborne would be substantial, said the managing director of J. Wattie Canneries Limited, Mr Ray Watson.

He said the full extent of the losses was not yet known.

Rain triggers alarm - twice

Heavy rain triggered the fire alarm at the Pacific freezing works twice at the weekend.

Firemen were called to the works at 1.53pm on Saturday and at 7am on Sunday.

A brigade spokesman said water had got into the alarm system and set it off.

Five more in court over fatal bashing

Christchurch murder charges after the fatal bashing of a girl in Christchurch last Wednesday were remanded in custody when they appeared in the Christchurch District Court on Saturday.

Two of them were 16-year-olds.

Seven youths have now been charged jointly with the murder of Christine Judith Schofield, 20, who was beaten outside a Woolston address about 2am on Wednesday.



● Diane Wale and Rex Evans, Wellington, nearly turned round and went home again after arriving to heavy rain in Hastings on Saturday. However, the couple decided to brave it and hope for an improvement. They are shown pitching their tent at the Windsor Park camping ground.

Fatal crash at Hastings intersection

A Te Hauke man was killed when a car rolled in Hastings on Saturday night.

The dead man was James Mikaera Te Nahu, 26, Colin Whites Rd.

One of the three passengers in the Ford car, Sony Hokianga, 33, Te Hauke, today was in a serious condition in Hastings hospital with internal injuries.

Police said the car left Marakakaho Rd and overturned into a ditch in a roadside paddock at the intersection with Wall Rd.

Firemen used air bags and special cutting equipment to free the four occupants.

Another passenger in the car, Gordon Parana, Flaxmere, today was in a comfortable condition in the Hastings hospital with facial fractures.

His sister, Fay, the only female passenger was not injured in the accident.

\$4000 and drugs stolen

Drugs and \$4000 cash were stolen from a Napier pharmacy over Christmas.

The money and 1200 tablets of assorted drugs were taken from the Odeon pharmacy, Hastings St, sometime between Christmas Day and yesterday.

Cash and cheques amounting to \$1512 were stolen from the Carter Holt bulk hardware and plumbing store in Onekawa, Napier, between Christmas Eve and yesterday.

\$190 was taken from a hotel room at the Central Hotel, Dalton St, Napier, yesterday.

Tools worth \$650 were stolen from a house garage in Henry Charles Crescent, Napier, on Boxing Day.

Condition is still serious

A young Hastings man, with severe facial and eye injuries, including fractures, is still in a serious condition in the intensive-care unit at Hastings hospital as a result of a car crash eight days ago.

He is 22-year-old Ian Stephenson, St Aubyn St, whose car crashed off the Napier-Hastings motorway in the early hours of December 21.

Whirinaki operating despite difficulties

The Whirinaki mill is continuing to operate and is meeting its pulp-storage problems with difficulty.

But mill management is hoping for a line-day tomorrow.

Pulp storage at the mill, and at the port of Napier, is filled to capacity following a building caused by a number of factors during the past few weeks.

They include the port stoppage caused by the national harbour board workers strike early in December, a busy period at the port and consequent labour shortage, wet weather creating discharge delays, and the breakdown

of one crane on a ship discharging potash and due to loading pulp.

Mill assistant general manager Mr Ken Ross said that, following the normal two-day Christmas shutdown at the mill, work had resumed as normal and mill production was being stored wherever possible.

The mill is producing 600 tonnes of pulp a day.

However the New Year break is still likely to create a serious problem, with the waterfront closing from noon on Wednesday until Monday morning, while the mill is scheduled to continue operations around the clock.

Campers stay on - in the mud

Holidaymakers in Napier are generally tolerating the wet weather and making predictions for an improvement will come to fruition.

At Kennedy Park motor camp on Saturday night the heavy rain was the "final straw" for some camp sites, already sodden with rain over Christmas.

Manager Mr Gordon Beveridge said about 20 of the camp's 250 sites were either flooded or churned to mud.

Until Saturday the camp situation had been reasonable, but the downpour on Saturday evening "put the finishing touches to it," he said.

A few campers had left, but the majority stayed on.

The camp has about 1000 people in it and Mr Beveridge said the number was being limited until the affected campsites dried out.

River found 'weak spot'

The breaching of the Ngaruroro River stopbank near Twyford yesterday was the result of an inherent weakness in the structure, according to the Hawke's Bay Catchment Board's deputy chief engineer, Mr David Hamilton.

Routine inspections had failed to detect this weakness, he said.

The river had not gone over the top of the stopbank, but the swollen waters had found a way through the weak spot.

The stopbank was breached about 8am and within minutes it was 30 metres across. An hour later it was 60 metres wide and by 11.30am it had increased to 120 metres.

After an aerial inspection of the board's region with other engineers Mr Hamilton said all the Hawke's Bay rivers had been swollen by the prolonged rain which had fallen since Christmas Day.

The Ngaruroro had risen to its highest level since the 1973 June flood.

During the 24 hours up to 9am on Saturday an average of 150 millimetres of rain had fallen in the headwaters of the catchments.

Larger rainfalls of between 150 to 160mm were recorded in the subsequent 24 hours up to 9am yesterday.

The highest rainfall was recorded at Kaweka Forest where 185mm (7 1/4 inches) fell during the 24 hours up to 9am yesterday, said Mr Hamilton.

Grower loses the lot

The Ngaruroro River swept away a berryfruit grower's income yesterday morning when it burst its banks a few hundred metres upstream from Twyford Rd.

Today 1700 sq ft of silt covered everything on Mr David Brooker's property and his raspberry, loganberry and boysenberry crops appeared ruined.

"The silt is in my car, my sheds and my house, he said while cleaning up after a 1.3-metre (four-foot) wall of water had suddenly rushed through, around 8am yesterday.

Mr Brooker, his wife and five children, aged from one to 13 years, were evacuated by a neighbour, Mr Frank Curd, in his Land-Rover.

They left in what they stood up to the water.

"We didn't have time to take anything," said Mr Brooker.

The family spent last night with friends and would do the same tonight.

Today their home was isolated after bridges in Twyford Rd were swept away.

"We can walk to it over a plank," he said.

The floodwaters also swept away anything that was not tied down, he said.

All the lights in Napier's Broadlands Mall were smashed overnight on Saturday.

The damage was reported to Napier police yesterday by a mail shopkeeper.

On the same night, five windows at the Margaret Scout hall, Dowdville Avenue, Napier, were also smashed. The hall's back door was also stoved in.

Burglars play safe

Hamilton burglars entered a post office and general store north of Napier on Saturday and made off with the store's locked safe, which contained cheques and cash worth almost \$4000.

Patrol helps victims, guards against looting

Hastings police formed an emergency patrol on Saturday to evacuate flood victims and prevent looting.

Several men were called off holiday to assist the nine-man patrol.

A police spokesman said several elderly people in Ruahapua Rd, Hastings, were reluctant to leave their homes, threatened by rising flood water.

Patrols moved around the whole flood area to prevent any evacuated homes being broken into.

There have been no reports of evacuated homes or properties being entered.

The patrols will continue until the areas affected are back to normal.

Police worked with Ministry of Transport and Catchment Board staff to block off flooded roads and help people affected by the torrential rain.

The spokesman said they did not strike any major problems and the operation went smoothly.

Families flee 'wall of water'

Rampaging floodwaters smashed a 120-metre gap through a stopbank on the Ngaruroro River near Twyford yesterday forcing a dozen families to flee their homes.

Jet boats and heavy machinery were used to rescue some of the families and stock as water inundated 1000 hectares of rich cropping, orchard and farming land on the Heretaunga Plains.

The Ngaruroro burst out of its banks without warning about 8am sending a wall of water tumbling across the flat farmlands to the no-exist end of Twyford Rd.

Farmers had little time to move stock and several families were forced to flee their homes in the clothing they were wearing at the time.

About 15 homes in the area were surrounded by water to varying depths. Some families, with their floodboards still above water, decided to stick it out - but others had no option with the silt-laden waters halfway up the walls.

Most of the people who were forced out of their homes assembled at the Hawke's Bay County Council's depot in Omaha Rd and from there made their own arrangements for alternative accommodation.

Farmers worked frantically throughout the morning shifting stock to higher ground and some was moved out by trucks.

But for others there was not time and Mr Rory Smith, just barely escaped from his property, unable to do anything for 500 ewes which disappeared under the floodwaters.

The muddy, brown water also devastated berry crops, stone-fruit trees, pea, bean and tomato crops.

Farmers estimated early yesterday that at least 750 sheep were lost in the flood, but most of the cattle in the area were saved and put on to higher ground.

The flood caused damage to houses, sheds, cars, farm machinery and fences.

Cars, with water up to the tops of their bonnets, were left where they had been parked for the night. One, in which the owners had tried to flee the flood, had stalled in the middle of Twyford Rd.

The occupants were rescued by a truck.

Farmers looking out at the fence-lined floodwaters said it would take a major clean-up to get their properties back into shape.

Two jet boats were used by farmers to locate and evacuate stock stranded by the floodwaters.

An orchardist said he had lost his neqtarine crop.

"They were the size of tennis balls and I had been waiting for the last three days to pick them. Now they will split and won't be any good," he said.

"You see this kind of thing on television and read about it in the news, but you never think it is going to happen to you. I suppose all you can do is just pick up threads," he said.

One elderly farmer sat shivering in the back of a Land-Rover.

"I was up to my chest in floodwater trying to save cattle."

"But I saved them," he added proudly.

A youth whose father owns a stone fruit farm in Twyford Rd said he was first made aware of the flood when his mother called out about 8am.

"I saw the water rushing across the paddocks across the road from us. It was in a big brown wave."

"I went back to our house and in no time at all we were in three feet of water."

Worst hit farms were those of Mr Rory N. Smith and Mr B. J. Rohleder, in Twyford Rd.

"I visited the stopbank last night after we had had so much rain, and it didn't look too good then," said Mr Smith.

"To me it looked as though fallen logs and silt had built up against the trees inside the stopbank and this formed its own stopbank."

"The pressure of this built up and when it broke, it appeared that the force of the water was too great for the stopbank and it burst through."

"The hole in the stopbank was small at first, but it grew as the water rushed through it," said Mr Smith.

The floodwater raced around the wall of the stopbank and on to the paddocks of Mr Smith and Mr Rohleder before spreading to adjoining properties.

Mr Rohleder punched a hole in the roof of his house in case it was needed as a means of escape.

Hawke's Bay County Council trucks evacuated flood victims from houses in the path of the water.

One of the county's truck drivers, returning to the scene after taking people to the county council's offices in Omaha Rd, said one of the evacuees was from Iceland.

The water level dropped during the afternoon and farmers returned to their properties to move water-logged cars and check on family pets.

A concrete bridge midway down Twyford Rd, which had withstood the early force of the flood, collapsed just after midday and restricted movement past that point.

Mr C. C. Watson's property had a stream of flood water running beside the house just above foundation level and down into a stonefruit orchard.

Mr G. R. Ede's house was surrounded by floodwater and the top of the wooden fence on the boundary of the water appeared above the water level during the afternoon.

Mr K. E. McAlister's property was also affected by the flood with water at its peak being a metre deep in the house.

The Belmont Vineyards in Nicholls Rd, off Evans Rd, was devastated by the flood with vines having been ripped from their supports earlier in the day.

A boat was used to investigate all properties to make sure that those who remained on their farms were safe.



● Mrs Fay Rohleder, Twyford Rd, holds a bundle of clothing as she prepares to leave the area in the family's utility. The Rohleder's house took the initial force of the flood yesterday morning.



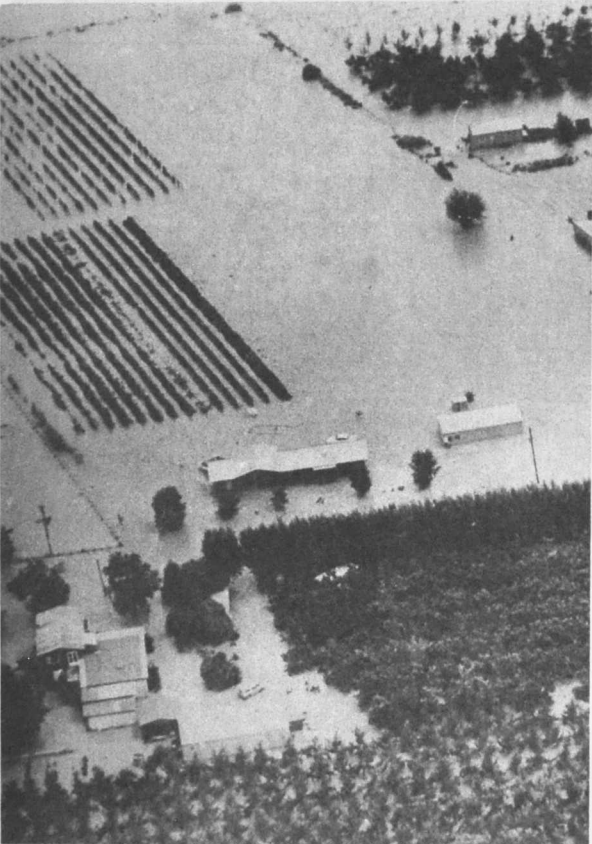
● Residents and spectators mingle in Twyford Rd watching the advance of yesterday's flood.



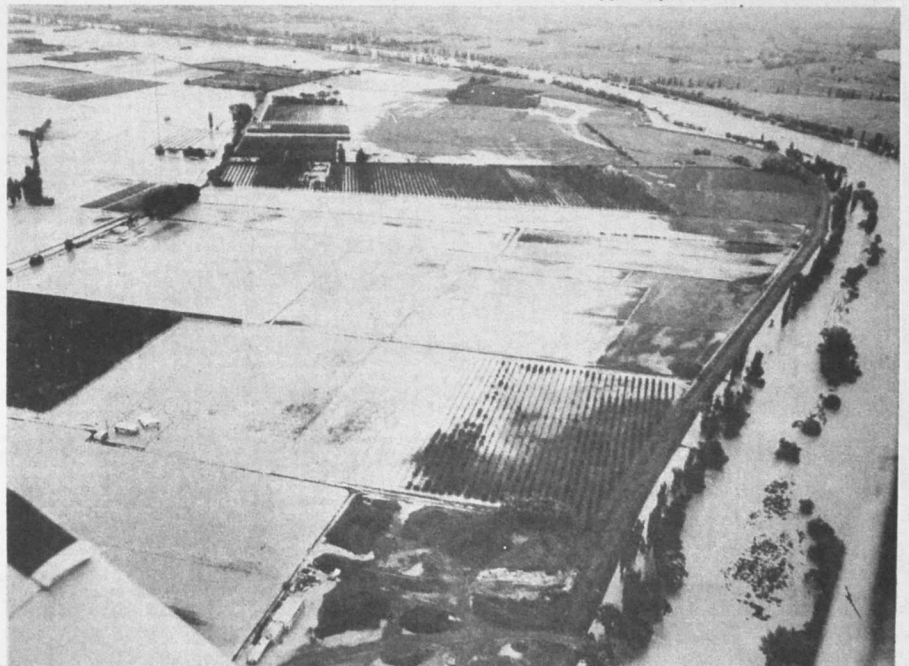
● Sheep were the major animal victims of yesterday's flood at Twyford Rd and this morning when the water level dropped fences were littered with sheep carcasses as were these on Mr D. J. Brooker's farm.



● Some of the orchards in the Twyford area which were inundated by yesterday's flood.



● Three houses in the Twyford Rd area completely surrounded by water.

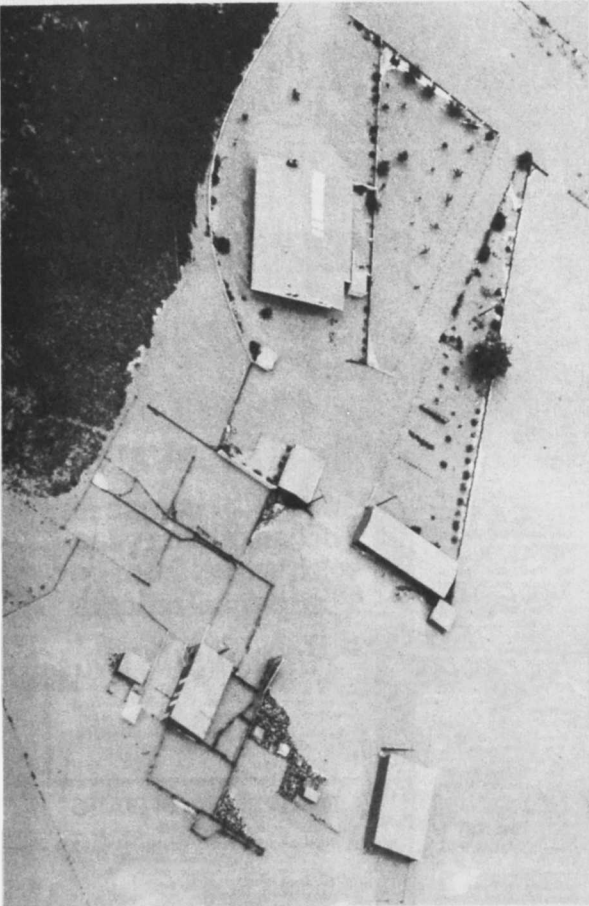


● Looking back up the Ngaruroro River to the cause of the flooding, the breached stopbank on the far left of the picture.

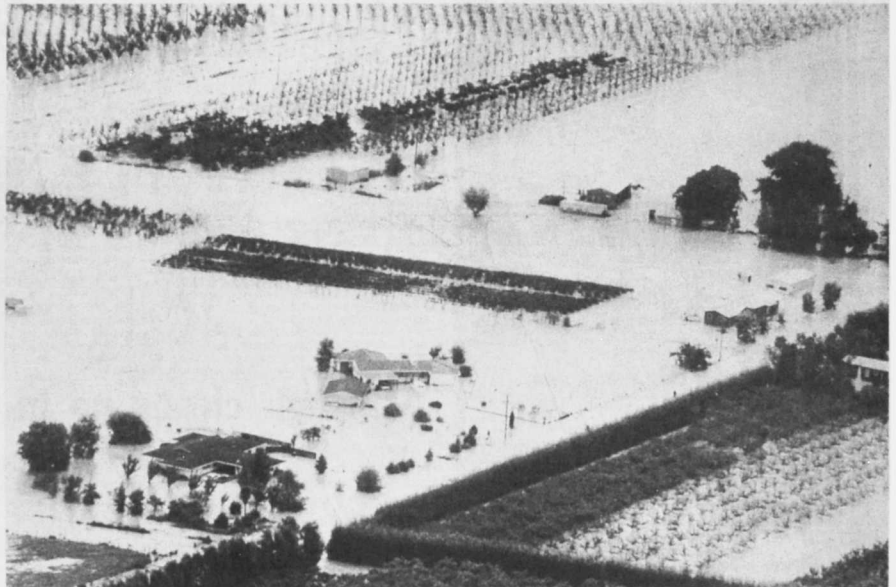
Rampant river



● This was the scene at 11am yesterday as the swollen Ngaruroro and Tutaeuri Rivers passed under the rail and road bridges at Waitangi. The flooded rivers merged into one to punch a big opening into the sea.



● A farm house and outbuildings completely surrounded by floodwaters at Twyford during the height of yesterday's emergency.



● So sudden was yesterday's flood in the Twyford area that cars had to be abandoned where they were parked as water swirled through homes to depths of more than one metre.



● Mrs Diane Galloway, Twyford Rd, checks the contents of her china cabinet on the silt-strewn floor of her lounge.



● Floodwater tore a concrete bridge from the road at Twyford yesterday afternoon and the only sign available to warn motorists was for tree felling.

Burst bank close call for CHB

The swollen Waipawa River yesterday carved a hole in its stopbank flooding 40 hectares of farmland at Ruataniwha, Central Hawke's Bay.

The only property badly affected was Many Willows owned by Mr and Mrs Maurice Reidy.

However, if the stopbank had broken a little further upstream, thousands of acres of farmland could have been inundated.

Mr Reidy today said that

it was the first time in 80 years that the river had come over into the property, which is situated on Swamp Rd 10km from Waipawa.

Yesterday morning the family had to pack their suitcases when water flooded 40 hectares and surrounded the farmhouse. The house remained dry.

"We were lucky. We had plenty of warning, not like those poor souls in Twyford," said Mrs Reidy.

"We woke at daybreak yesterday to find a piece out of the stopbank where it never washed out before.

"We tried sandbags, pushing shingle into the hole with heavy county machinery, but it was too late and pretty hopeless.

"It was just like pouring mud into a hole."

Gun squad called out

The Hamilton offenders squad was called to Te Awamutu yesterday after shots were fired outside a farmhouse at Pokuru.

Police said a 32-year-old man had fired shots into the air from a 22 rifle after a family dispute, but the situation had soon cooled and the incident was being treated as minor.

It was still uncertain last night whether charges would be laid.

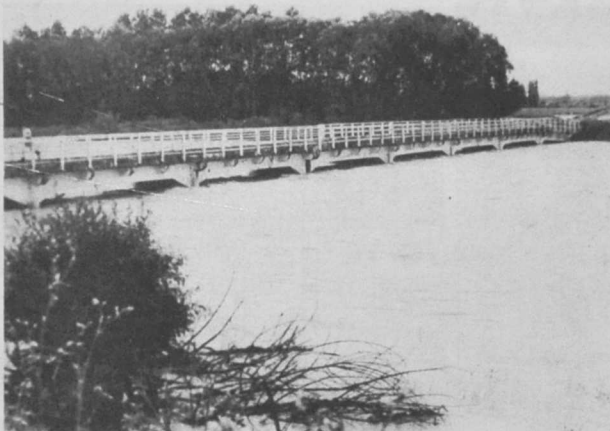
The Reidys' neighbours and catchment board staff had kept a wary eye on the stopbank on Saturday night.

Stock was moved to higher ground and catchment board staff pushed up willows alongside a usually troublesome spot in the stopbank for better protection.

But instead the stopbank broke a few hundred metres further down stream and the river flowed over acres of flat farmland.

"A lake might have formed between the Waipawa and Tukituki," he said.

This morning the Reidys went back to start the massive job of fencing up. Some fences near the river have been ripped out and the drive resembled the



● A swollen Central Hawke's Bay river comes close to topping the Ashcroft Rd bridge at the bottom of Pukeora Hill.

bottom of a riverbed.

Staff from the catchment board office in Waipukurau are keeping a close watch on the Reidy property. The board is also checking the stopbanks of the Tukituki River where some scouring has occurred and were waiting for the water to recede so that damage could be properly assessed.

The heavy rainfall also caused several slips in the Haupapa riding, but Mr Cooper said he had not received any reports of flooding from the coastal area.

Highway 50 was closed at the Waipawa River bridge at 4:30pm yesterday. It was still closed this afternoon.

The Tukituki River bridge over the highway was also closed because of a wash-out on the northern approach.

Minor slips and wash-outs were also reported throughout the Waipawa district, but the council has not closed any roads.

The dead were: Rodney Graham Simonsen, 52, and Dawn Natalie Simonsen, 49, Palmerston North.

Their daughter, Lyndall Dawn Simonsen, 21, was seriously injured and their son Roger Martin Simonsen, 26, received moderate injuries.

● A pedestrian died when he was struck by a motorcycle at Ruakura, on Saturday night. He was: Frederick George Lowe, 58, Takahawa, near Whangarei.

● James Noel Howie, 18, Milton, was killed when his car and another collided near Milton at 3am on Saturday.

Top rally driver road toll victim

One of New Zealand's most promising rally drivers was one of 22 people killed up to this morning in a soaring Christmas-New Year road toll.

The winner of this year's Dunlop rally driver of the year award, Alan Wallis Fergus, was killed in a head-on collision at Pahoa, near Tauranga, on Saturday afternoon.

Mr Fergus, a farmer, had been watching the Baypark motor racing in Tauranga and it is understood he was returning home to Waipi Beach to bring his wife

back to Tauranga on Sunday.

The Ministry of Transport's director of road transport, Mr Bill Shearer said there was nothing more his department could do to stop the horrifying toll.

Mr Shearer said traffic officers had maximum round the clock coverage but were helpless in the

face of the public's attitude.

"We have no more resources to use," he said.

"We spent a great deal of money on the drinking-driving campaign, and we continually caution people about the need for care and attention on the roads and the dangers of drinking and driving."

The shocking number of deaths was due to alcohol, careless overtaking and speeding, he said.

● A holiday trip to Auckland ended in tragedy yesterday morning for the Simonsen family of Palmerston North when a head-on collision north of Marton left both parents dead.

Murtagh cleans up in his first encounters

Though John Murtagh had not played any of his three opponents before in singles competition, he did not give it a second thought as he won the celebrity singles bowls at Onehunga, Auckland yesterday.

In the round robin competition preceding the Rothmans national championships which started today, Murtagh beat Nick

Unkovich, Phil Skoglund and Bob McDonald to win a trip to England next June.

Coping well with the constantly changing conditions, Murtagh produced consistent draw bowls in all three matches.

Twice yesterday the greens were flooded and the second half of the morning round was transferred from a grass to a cotula green.

Despite winning the competition, Murtagh said he learned a lot from his opponents during the two days play.

"They are far better proven singles players than me," said Murtagh.

"The experience was invaluable. You are learning from them all the time."

Murtagh who will be defending the singles championship he won last year, admitted that he would find it hard coming back to earth to start section play in the singles today.

"The trip to England was certainly the carrot at the end of the stick," he said.

Despite his success, Murtagh had some anxious moments in his final game against Bob McDonald.

When rain interrupted play, Murtagh was 2-8 down.

"I had visions of something going wrong," he said.

Two hours later when the game resumed Murtagh found his length straight away and ran out the winner, 21-10.

The challenge match between Skoglund and Unkovich produced some great play from both bowlers, with the Auckland winner winning 21-20.

The pair swapped the lead several times, with some fine draw play and the odd smashing drive from Unkovich. But on the last end he made two fine draw shots to come from 19-20 down.

Today the championships proper started with

Factory flooded Skips for Waipawa open

Norsewear Industries factory at Norsewood was flooded to a depth of about five centimetres early on Sunday morning.

The water affected a considerable amount of the knitwear company's warehouse.

Speedway pumped

Napier firemen yesterday pumped more than 160,000 litres (36,000 gallons) of water from the Mecanee speedway. Water covered half the track to a depth of about 15cm. The pumping job took about three hours.

The managing-director, Mr Olan Rian, said it was too soon to say how much damage the flood had caused.

He was hoping that spare electronic equipment that was soaked had escaped damage.

The flood was noticed early yesterday morning and the water was quickly cleared with the help of the Norsewood volunteer fire brigade and people from the town.

"About a 100 people, including some I have never seen before, turned up with buckets and mops to help clean the factory up and I am most grateful to them," said Mr Rian.

Skips for the Waipawa Bowling Club's open pairs tournament to be played at the Waipawa and Otane greens on Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 9am are—

- Otane first day—Waipawa, second day—Harley, Murphy, Weaver (Waipukurau), Laidlaw, Burne (Otane), Coombe (Takapau), Oliver, Wason (Waipawa), Sunderland (Hastings), Ritchie (Kia Toa), Woodham, Watts (National Service), Hoesey, McCavock (Karamu).
- Waipawa first day: Oane, Brown, second day: Harley, Murphy, O'Connor, Wils, Tricklebar (Waipukurau), Barde (Napier), Le Grey, Ivan, Wason (Karamu), Mills (Kia Toa), Templeman, Higgs (Otane), Mookridge, Laredo (National Service), Hambleton, Tate (Waipawa).

GO Gannet Safaris
To the only mainland gannet colony in the world
CAPE KIDNAPPERS
Overland in comfortable 12 seater Landrovers or their new American Jeep. No walking involved. For scheduled three hour trips, 8.30 am & 1.30 pm, day trips, or group bookings; Phone Hastings 777-597.

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?
NEW ZEALAND Women's Weekly

A rare glimpse of the "other" Kiri
There are two Kiris. New Zealand Woman's Weekly tourists who went to San Francisco to see the famous singer in the opera, Arabella, met Kiri TKarawa. And Peter Nicholas spent an afternoon with Kiri Park, mother of two, a woman who values privacy so much that not even her best friends know her home telephone number!

Disaster is only a drink away
In the Weekly last June a mother-of-two in her early thirties—an alcoholic—told of her battle to beat the bottle. Now after almost a year being "dry", she tells how she has learned to cope in an alcohol-removed society. She says: "Staying sober can be a game, a healthy game, and I want to play the game properly and to the end."

They make a bee-line for Kay and her "miracle machine"
Kay Kierman is not a doctor. Nor is she a qualified physiotherapist. Yet even members of the Royal Family swear by the special electrical treatment she offers.

Plane panic put to flight
Many people would rather put their head in a hippo's mouth than set foot on a jumbo—or any other kind of plane. Twenty 21 fearful fliers embarked on a two-week course designed to cure them of their flight phobias.

How about a dinner of thistles, dandelions and daisy leaves?
T.V. botanist David Bellamy (The Botanic Man) thinks that weeds could be the new no-cook way of feeding the family.

Your future in the stars
Fascinating month-by-month guide for 1981

Mussel power: The war heats up
A primitive shellfish which has quietly survived in secluded ocean inlets like the Marlborough Sounds for 500 million years, is at the centre of an international trade battle worth millions to New Zealand in export earnings.

Whoops - what happened here?
It's great fun to take holiday snaps. But not always such fun when you pick up the prints to find that poor old mum has somehow lost her head, cousin Sandra is just an indistinct blur, and Auntie Edna appears as a dot on the far horizon. With our special guide to photography at your elbow you'll never again make such mistakes.

You & your MONEY
Readers' questions answered

EVERY WEEK THERE'S SOMETHING NEW FOR YOU IN NEW ZEALAND Women's Weekly

Saturday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42

Across:

- Thaw
- Hot spouting springs
- Sins
- Caution
- Waits on
- Native of Denmark
- Small valley
- Enticed
- Interest
- Channel
- Generous
- Abandoned
- Limited time
- Command
- Medley
- Achieves
- Trials

Down:

- Eludes
- Genie
- Concede
- Respect
- Precaution
- Rest of a roof
- Blunt
- Stuffed
- Prong
- Stupid fellow
- Strip of wood
- Nearly
- Over
- Foothold person
- Additional
- Knowing looks

Season's Greetings from GLENVALE

Make Christmas an occasion this year with wines from our super selection...

An Invitation

The management and staff of Glenvale extend a warm welcome to the Vineyard and the Sample Bar. Take the opportunity of leisurely selecting from our wide range of Wines and Liqueurs.

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

DECEMBER 1980
December 26th (Boxing Day): 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
December 27th: 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
December 28th: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
December 30th: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
December 31st: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

JANUARY 1981
January 1st: 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
January 2nd: 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
January 3rd: 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

COLDICUTTS BUTCHERY

LATE NIGHT FRIDAY 7pm

716W Heretaunga Street Hastings, Phone 69-968

NEW YEAR SPECIALS

FROZEN SIDES OF LAMB \$8.99
FRESH SIDES OF LAMB \$12.99
LARGE SIDES OF MUTTON \$12.00
SIDES OF HOGGET \$14.99
LARGE ROLLS PET FOOD \$1.60 (5 for \$7)

SPECIALS FOR THE CHILDREN

CHEERIOS \$2.98 kg **24 ICE BLOCKS \$2.99**
2 LITRE VANILLA ICE CREAM \$1.75

BEEF SPECIALS

5kg BEEF SAUSAGES \$7.50
5kg SAVELOYS \$8.00
5kg BEEF MINCE \$9.95

STEAK MINCE • GRAY BEEF • CHUCK STEAK • STEAK & KIDNEY • ROAST BEEF • CORNED BRISKET • ALL \$2.99 kg
SAVE 80c or more a kg

After the flood



● Michael Porter (right), son of Mangletton farmer Mr Winton Porter, helps helicopter pilot Mr Lyn Wilson, Havelock North, unload supplies for flood victims. Michael has been stranded by flood waters on the Kereru side of the Ohara Stream and was airlifted home with relief supplies to his family.



● Above: Heavy rain during the Christmas period created havoc on sloping high country in Mangletton, causing debris to fall from hillsides on to the Mangletton Rd across the Tarapeke Gorge. The road's normal path is depicted by a dotted line.



● The Hawke's Bay County Council's chief engineer, Mr Dudley Hawkes (left), holds the door open for county chairman Mr M. E. Groome, as they prepare to board a helicopter to view the flood damage at Mangletton.



● Above: Hawke's Bay County Council's works engineer, Mr Bill Goninon, assesses damage on the Kereru side of the Ohara Stream.



● Three Hawke's Bay County Council representatives inspect the gaping hole left by raging floodwaters in the Kereru Gorge Rd.



● Above: The MP for Hawke's Bay, Sir Richard Harrison (right), greets Mangletton farmers Jim Thompson (left) and Winton Porter (centre) — stranded victims of the weekend's flooding. Below: Floodwaters of the swollen Ohara Stream tore away road access to Mangletton, stranding about 16 families for nearly 50 hours before yesterday's relief operation.



● Above and below: Stranded farmers and their families wait beside cars as the first relief supplies are flown by helicopter into the stricken Mangletton area.



● Above: Jim Christie (left), manager of Kereru Station, discusses airlift operations with helicopter crew at Kereru Station — base for yesterday's moves to help stranded Mangletton flood victims. Below: The swollen Ohara Stream tore away the Mangletton approach road to the stream's bridge at the height of the flooding. The bridge remains intact but the damage left Mangletton farmers stranded.

