



Flood insurance shock

Special report
By LEIGH BOTTRELL

SHOCKED Goulburn householders living near the Wollondilly River are being hit with massively increased house and contents insurance premiums.

They have received notices from insurance companies that their next premiums will skyrocket if they want to take out flood cover.

The *Goulburn Post* has seen an NRMA insurance renewal notice sent to an Albert Street property owner (who asked that her name not be used) which raises her house and contents premium

from last year's \$314 without flood cover to \$616, and to \$2197 if she wants flood cover.

The woman has been an NRMA policy holder and member for 50 years, without ever making a car or property claim.

After confirming with the NRMA that the increases were correct, she was quoted \$690 by GIO Insurance for house and

contents insurance including flood cover.

"When I rang the NRMA, they recommended I take out flood cover, because they'd reassessed the area and found it was prone to flooding," she said.

"They said I was now in a 1:100-year flood zone. But I've lived in this house for 36 years and never experienced any flooding."

In nearby Audubon Crescent, householder Maree Burns had her NRMA contents-only cover increased from \$265 to \$864. She changed to GIO at a cost of \$276 for \$80,000 cover, with full flood cover.

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A wonderful day to drop in

By LEIGH BOTTRELL

AUSTRALIA Day in Goulburn really came of age yesterday when more than 2000 people of all ages and backgrounds celebrated in Victoria Park.

After a tentative start early in the morning, the sun shone brightly, a cool breeze puffed lightly, and rain clouds stayed away until all the formalities had been completed.

This year's Australia Day was a great family occasion – dogs included. And it was obvious that many of the families originated in parts of the world far away from Goulburn.

Like many other places throughout Australia, Goulburn hasn't always marked our national day with such a fine show of community involvement and unselfconscious joy.

Many a big country show or fair would envy the number, range and quality of the stalls, exhibits and entertainment. Official speechifying – necessary to the occasion – was suitably thought-provoking and to-the-point.

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SKY'S THE LIMIT: Parachuting truckie Ken Enright floats towards Earth yesterday as part of Goulburn's successful Australia Day celebrations: Photo: Peter Oliver

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