



Three day totals from Tuesday through to Thursday are expected to be in the range of 100 to 300mm within this area ... this is likely to produce flash flooding

- Bureau of Meteorology at 4.59pm yesterday

# Heavens above!

## Goulburn on flood alert

By TOM SEBO & DARRYL FERNANCE

EMERGENCY services crews were last night bracing for a mighty deluge of December 2010 proportions forecast to hit Goulburn over the next 24 hours.

Property owners in low-lying areas yesterday afternoon weren't taking any chances, moving livestock and belongings to higher ground.

"Having been through two floods previously we don't want to take any chances," Goulburn Golf Club professional Graeme Bugden said.

"We hope the predictions are wrong but we are not taking any chances."

At 4.59pm yesterday The Bureau of Meteorology warned of heavy rain which is "likely to produce flash flooding".

Up to 300mm could fall in Goulburn today and tomorrow, the Bureau was predicting.

Mayor Geoff Kettle said authorities including the council, State Emergency Service (SES) and police were on high alert since Monday afternoon.

SES personnel spent much of yesterday doorknocking and letter-box dropping households in vulnerable areas such as Hercules and Forbes streets in Eastgrove, and properties near the Wollondilly River

"We have been monitoring the situation since Monday afternoon, and have been in regular contact with the local SES unit," Cr Kettle said.

"It appears that the heaviest

rain will fall on Wednesday, and indications are that the hazard potential could be as bad as 2010."

On December 9 that year flash flooding from more than 125mm of rain in 24 hours inundated dozens of homes and prompted a community backlash against authorities.

But the SES says it's better prepared this time - despite an updated but draft Goulburn Local Flood Plan yet to be formalised by Council.

The *Goulburn Post* also understands Council is yet to purchase river flood gauges which were recommended in the aftermath of the 2010 floods.

"The big difference is we have been given more warning (this time)," Goulburn SES local unit controller Robert Bell said during yesterday's briefing in the council chambers.

"I was almost waist deep in water attempting my third rescue last year when we got our first flood warning."

In anticipation of possible flooding the council will make sand and sand bags available to help protect properties.

Anyone requiring sand bags should make their way to the Hetherington Street Council depot.

"I cannot stress enough how important it is for residents to follow the directions issued by the SES or NSW Police," Cr Kettle said.

Should the rain come, he warned motorists to be especially vigilant.



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NO CHANCES: Goulburn Golf Club professional Graeme Bugden was not taking any chances yesterday morning.

# LEAP YEAR

# SALE!

## LEAP IS CHEAP! BARGAINS STOREWIDE!

ONE DAY ONLY!  
Wednesday

# 29

FEBRUARY