

Give goods to appeal for victims

FURNITURE, washing machines, refrigerators and other household goods will be trucked to Innisfail as part of an appeal launched yesterday.

The *Townsville Bulletin* and the Salvation Army have joined forces in the appeal.

Appeal co-ordinator Doug Kingston said items donated in the next few days could be given to cyclone victims by as early as Friday.

"After the 1998 Townsville flood, we called for household items and were staggered by the response," he said.

"We had companies donating beds, refrigerators, washing machines — one local car dealer even gave us a new car, which was auctioned to buy furniture.

"Townsville residents who escaped flood damage also donated their spare household goods."

Mr Kingston said Innisfail newspaper colleagues had indicated there was an urgent need for help.

"They told me yesterday that many people in the Innisfail district had lost everything — from furniture to toys — so any help we can give will be greatly appreciated."

The *Townsville Bulletin* kicked off the appeal yesterday by donating \$10,000 worth of household goods.

"The *Townsville Bulletin* will also provide trucks and manpower to collect donated items and transport them to Innisfail, where they will be distributed by the Salvation Army."

Donations, which must be in working order, can be taken to the Salvation Army's Townsville Recovery Services centre, in Blackwood St.

Heavier items can be donated by phoning 4722 4739 between 9am and 5pm this week. A truck will then be sent to pick up the donations and deliver them to Innisfail.

Cyclone victims in urgent need of household goods should phone 4722 4490 (9am-5pm) or email to kingstond@nqn.news ltd.com.au

Pair hid in kennel

Women scramble to safety as home torn to shreds



THE AFTERMATH . . . Constable Glenn Kiddle from the Public Safety Response Team moves debris in Rankin St; inset Albina Lazzarich at her home, south of Innisfail

Photos: TROY RODGERS TR381004, TR381005

By VIKKI CAMPION

ALBINA Lazzarich and her mother hid from Cyclone Larry in a dog kennel after wild winds ripped their roof off from above their heads.

The two women were forced to scramble 50m to the dog kennel at the back of their Bruce Highway property near Innisfail.

They shared the refuge with twelve beagles and cavaliers and a coup of chooks.

Ms Lazzarich said they hid in the bathroom for as long as they could before they were exposed to the wrath of Cyclone Larry.

"When the wind got worse we hid in the bathroom until the front door blew off and then that was it, everything was blown away . . . the walls were gone and it was all gone," she said.

"We ran down to the kennel with the dogs and the chooks."

Ms Lazzarich said when they were finally comfortable she heard another thundering crash.

What had sheltered them for 20 years had landed on the dog kennel's roof.

"I was petrified she said."

"But the dogs were fine."

But the impact of the overnight terror did not set in until the sun rose.

All that remains was a bathroom full of Ms Lazzarich's mother's 40th wedding anniversary crockery and a greenhouse of her deceased father's orchids.

The contents of her home and her fridge was scattered across the lawn. The timber frames of what was a house was all that remained.

The television, air-conditioner, carpet, deep freeze and family photo-

graphs had been hurled from the second storey to the soggy gravel below.

Even the kitchen sink could not withstand the storm's ferocity.

Ms Lazzarich's despair sunk to disbelief.

She said she was shocked her home had been 'torn to shreds' so easily.

"It survived three cyclones," she said.

"I thought we would be fine with this cyclone too."

By yesterday afternoon, help had still not arrived.

She and her mother picked through the rubble in the hope of salvaging their most treasured possessions.

"All we want is for the SES to come and help us out," she said.

"But I suppose there are other people worse off than us in town."



IF YOU NEED HELP

Ergon Energy power failure - 132 296
Telstra phone problems - 132 203
Origin Energy leaks only - 1800 808 526
RACQ Road report - 1300 130595
Innisfail Hospital - 4061 5411
Atherton Hospital - 4091 0211

Babinda Hospital - 4067 1400
Cairns Base Hospital - 4050 6333
SES Townsville / Thuringowa, Charters Towers / Dalrymple, Bowen - 4799 7113
SES Cairns, Cardwell, Atherton, Croydon, Johnstone, Mareeba - 4039 8255

Land Weather and Flood Warnings - 1300 659 219
Weather bureau - www.bom.gov.au



WIN

100 double passes to the nQ Premiere of...



To be in the draw to win one of 100 double passes to see the North Queensland premiere of Ice Age 2 at Birch, Carrol & Coyle cinemas at 10am on Sunday, April 2 cut out the coupon (right) and paste it on an entry form published in the Townsville Bulletin on Saturday, March 11 or March 18. When you have collected three coupons, send your entry to Ice Age 2 Competition, c/- Townsville Bulletin, PO Box 2030, Townsville, 4810. Entries close at 12 noon on March 29 and winners will be announced in the Townsville Bulletin on March 30. (Conditions apply — see Public Notices)

