

# Carer clocks on as home goes under

By YVONNE GARDINER  
yvonne.gardiner@qt.com.au

WITH her home flooding to the roof and most of her family's possessions ruined, no one would have expected Shannon O'Doherty to turn up for work.

She wasn't even on the roster for the day East Ipswich residents fell victim to their worst floods in living memory.

The mother of five-month-old Emmy and two-year-old Rhys was concerned about her clients, some of whom had also been affected by the flood.

Ms O'Doherty is a personal carer with RSL HomeCare in Ipswich.

"I went in to work on Wednesday (January 12) to see if there was anything that needed to be done," she said.

"I help people with daily living in their own homes - most are elderly.

"I was at work on the Tuesday and came home at lunchtime. It was pouring down rain.

"As soon as the waters started to rise, my husband and I took our children to safety, saving as many of our children's belongings as possible.

"I ran out of time to save most of my belongings before we had to get out.

"By the time we got the car packed and got home from my mum's, about 3.30pm, the water was up to the driveway."

The rental property they'd



Shannon O'Doherty, with her children Emmy and Rhys Denton, turned up for work the day the family's home and contents went under floodwaters. Photo: Sarah Harvey IPS030211SHAN09B

called home for 18 months gradually disappeared under the flood.

"It's quite a mess inside," Ms O'Doherty said.

"We got out mainly stuff for the kids and photos.

"We'll be looking for somewhere else to live.

"We got all our bond back because the house is unliveable."

Until they receive an insurance payout, which could take a month, the family is staying with Shannon's mother.

"Rhys is taking it a bit hard - he keeps asking 'when are we going home'," Ms O'Doherty said.

Community Care manager Julie Ashby said Shannon was among the heroic carers who decided to go to work under the

most trying of circumstances.

"It was hard to keep in touch with all of our clients as some of them were evacuated to different locations," Ms Ashby said.

"But we did the best we could, bringing help and support to all those who needed us.

"In some cases RSL Care staff had to help some of our clients to evacuate their houses."

## IN BRIEF

### Bilby named

A BABY bilby born at Ipswich's Frank Manthey bilby burrow in Queens Park will be named after one of Australia's most famous teenagers - Young Australian of the Year 2011, lone round-the-world sailor Jessica Watson.

Ms Watson will visit Ipswich on Thursday.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale said Ms Watson proved all of her critics wrong by doing her solo circumnavigation of the world. "Jessica the bilby will now go to Dreamworld on the Gold Coast where she will become part of the bilby breeding program," Cr Pisasale said.

### Dam capacity

REDUCING Wivenhoe Dam's water supply by 10 per cent would not have saved Brisbane and Ipswich from devastating flooding, the Queensland Government says.

Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson said modelling had been done to show that even if the dam's capacity had been reduced by 10 per cent, flooding would have still occurred.

### March reunion

A REUNION for personnel who served with artillery units located at the Milford Street depot at Ipswich will be held on Saturday, March 12.

This event will be held at the Ipswich RSL Services Club, 5A Lowry Street, Ipswich.

Phone John Dredge on 3281 0832 or 0403 722 946.

# WANT A GYM MEMBERSHIP!

Beat the New Year Price Rise - Join By February 28th

**UNBELIEVABLE DEALS MUST END MONDAY FEBRUARY 28th**

1	12 Months Gym Membership - Paid in full up front	<b>\$349</b>
	Join with a friend PAY ONLY	<b>\$249.50 each</b>
2	12 Months - Easy Pay - Gym Membership	<b>\$11.50 per week direct debit</b>
	Join with a friend PAY ONLY	<b>\$8.75 per week direct debit</b>
3	No Contract Gym Membership - PAY ONLY	<b>\$13.75 per week direct debit</b>



**Call Today, Don't Miss Out!**  
(See club for conditions & details)

13 Wildey St Raceview  
Ph: 32816779  
(Opposite Brothers Rugby League Club)

**BONUS with offers 1 & 2**  
Free 12 Months Golf Membership or Personal Training Package Plus Power Band