

The West Australian

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380 Pages Including Liftouts

STATE

BIG
weekend

A young man finds his mother among the **SHADOWS** of the past

Liftout inside



The West
magazine
In the midst of **GORILLAS**

Pictures by award-winning photographer Tony Ashby

Liftout inside



today

FROM SOAP TO SAGA

Neighbours celebrates its tenth birthday

Monday



Sex act disgusts Festival patrons

Floods move towards railway

BY CARMELO AMALFI

FLOODWATERS north of the cut trans-Australian railway line have begun to swell the creek at Goddard Bridge but engineers expect it to hold against a 4km-wide front.

The 3m-high bridge was built 20 years ago after Lake Raeside, at 270km Australia's longest lake, washed away the line.

Surveys yesterday near Cundelee, about 40km north of Zanthus where 900m of line is being repaired, showed the flood moving at 10cm a second.

But the flow could speed up when the front hits the 8m-wide creek.

In 30 minutes, the water rose 100mm at Cundelee.

Although rock and 7000 cement bags are reinforcing bridge embankments, there are fears Australian National Railways could face a second washaway.

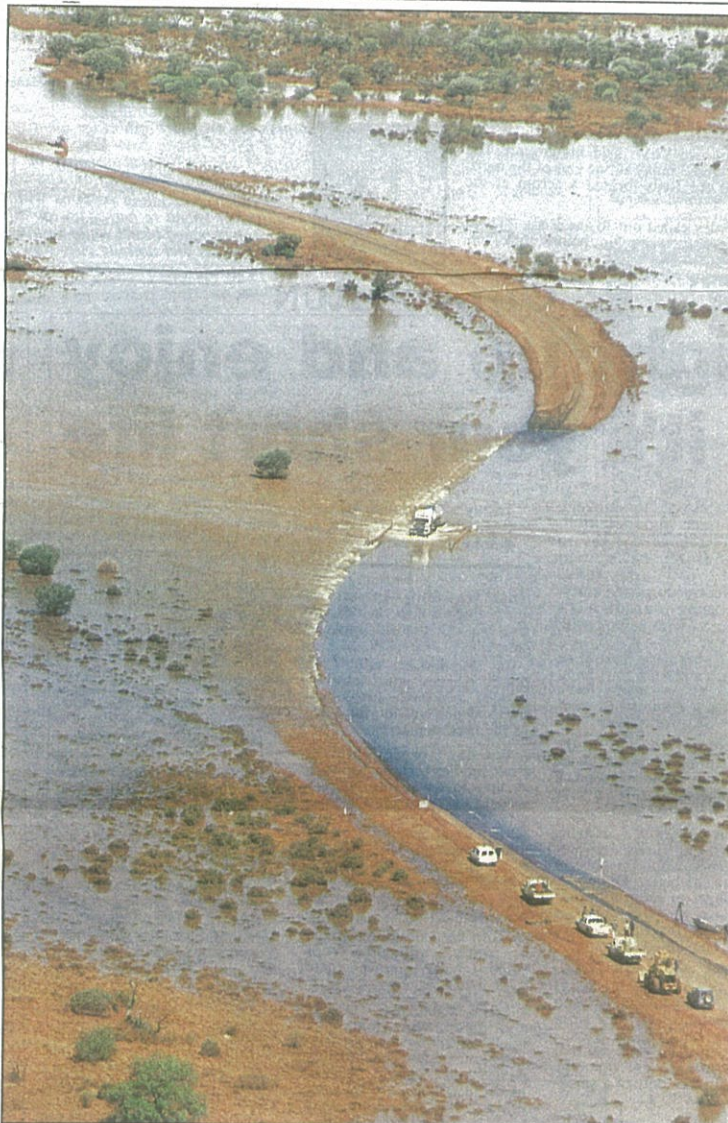
At Zanthus, a ballast train was the first to cross the line since it flooded more than two weeks ago.

WA Transport Minister Eric Charlton said ANR had hoped to run a test train yesterday but are now looking at next Friday.

The flood has held up 18 freight trains which forced much of the freight on to the Eyre Highway and coastal shipping.

A Mediterranean Shipping Company spokesman in Fremantle said it had picked up extra business, with goods normally moved by land — including groceries and beer — put on the company's ships.

● Aftermath, page 11



Flood plain: A truck edges cautiously through water covering the road into Leonora as other vehicles wait their turn at Lake Raeside yesterday. PICTURE: GUY MAGOWAN

BY DAVID REED

FESTIVAL of Perth organisers have launched an investigation into Sunday night's closing concert which featured sado-masochism, violence and overt sexual acts.

Festival goers left the concert shocked and disgusted by the lewd performances, labelling them disgusting and perverted.

They described scenes in a rotating wheel had blood-like tomato sauce rubbed violently into her bare breasts before being forced into simulated sex by a male actor.

A man with a red penis strapped to his front urinated mock blood near patrons.

Festival director David Blenkinsop blamed some rogue performers.

He said they had got carried away and did things that were not rehearsed.

Organisers were hoping to get a video of the concert, staged in the Wilson carpark at the west end of Murray Street at 8pm, from Channel 9.

"If there were people who took offence at what they saw, then we must apologise," Mr Blenkinsop said.

He said respected performance artist Gary Chard had been commissioned to stage the closing concert and had indicated there had been some unscheduled acting.

Mr Chard said yesterday that he wanted to speak to the Festival organisers before commenting.

Mr Blenkinsop said he thought the concert had gone well until he read a letter in *The West Australian* yesterday.

The letter, from Caroline Edwards, of Lynwood, described "a maniacal magician who saws a prostitute in half, then smears her with her own blood and rapes her in various ways, garish space-beings wielding machine guns and a statue that urinated blood".

"As we filed out, a sinister voice repeated, 'You're a freak, you're a freak, you're a sick freak,'" she said.

Mrs Edwards said she would not be going to the concert next year and was relieved her eight-year-old niece had decided not to attend.

She said children aged from about nine were in the crowd.

But Mr Blenkinsop said children could watch macabre acts without knowing what was going on.

Mrs Edwards said the show was degrading to women.

Other women performers were dressed in black and locked in mock bird cages.

"I felt dirty, really dirty at the end of the concert," she said.

"I felt like I needed a bath."

Erica Bremner Kneipp, of Wilson, said the concert was disturbing and she saw many people turn away from the sexual display in disgust.

"Why in a public place is it necessary to recreate acts of violence which we have trouble enough dealing with in real life situations," she said.

"I read about rape, sexual harassment and perversion every day. I don't expect to see it as entertainment in downtown Perth."

Mr Blenkinsop said organisers planned to watch the video next week before deciding on a course of action.

Arts Minister Peter Foss said he would not interfere with the organisers' investigation and had confidence that they would deal with the matter adequately.

He said he did not see the show but the descriptions of it he had read were exactly the same as scenes shown on television.

While these things were often in the eye of the viewer, society was becoming more tolerant towards acts of violence and sex because they regularly saw them on television and in films.

WEATHER

Isolated showers and thunderstorms in north Kimberley, morning drizzle on the Eucla coast. Perth: fine.

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Mine production hitches force Forrester Gold into the red.

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Swans' president Bill Walker under pressure over club's finances.

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GET THE WEST AND COLOUR YOUR DAY

Floods move towards railway

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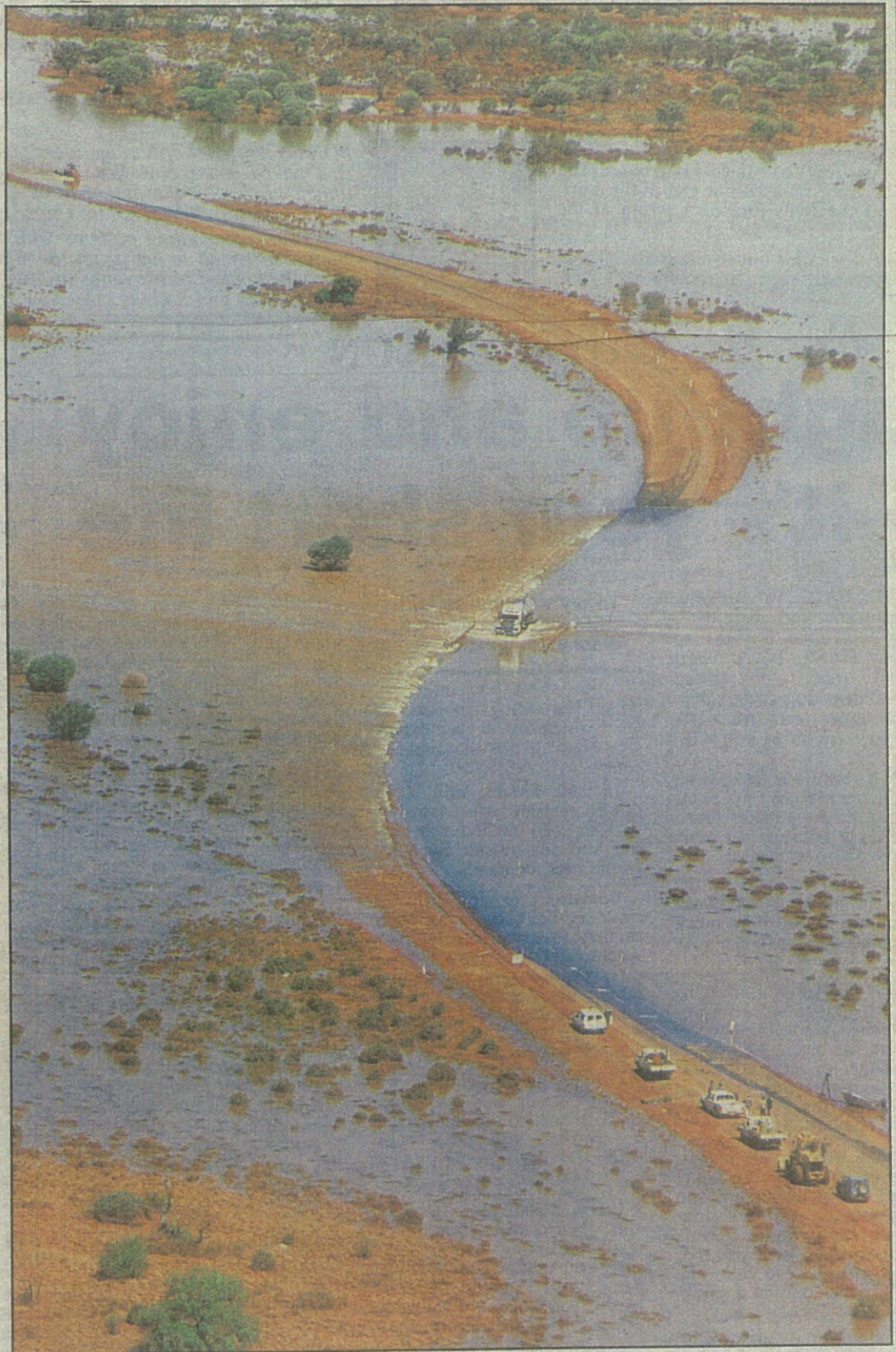
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GET THE WEST AND COLOUR YOUR DA

Killer Kray dies at 61

LONDON

BRITISH gangland killer Ronnie Kray has died in hospital, police said yesterday.

Twins Ronnie and Reggie Kray ran one of the most brutal London gangs in the 1960s.

Ronnie Kray, 61, was taken to hospital on Wednesday after collapsing twice at Broadmoor, a top-security mental hospital.

Kray, a heavy smoker and diabetic, underwent tests after a suspected heart attack in 1993.

The twins were jailed for life in 1969 with the recommendation that they serve at least 30 years for the killing of mobster Jack "The Hat" McVitie.

Ronnie Kray was diagnosed a paranoid schizophrenic in 1979.

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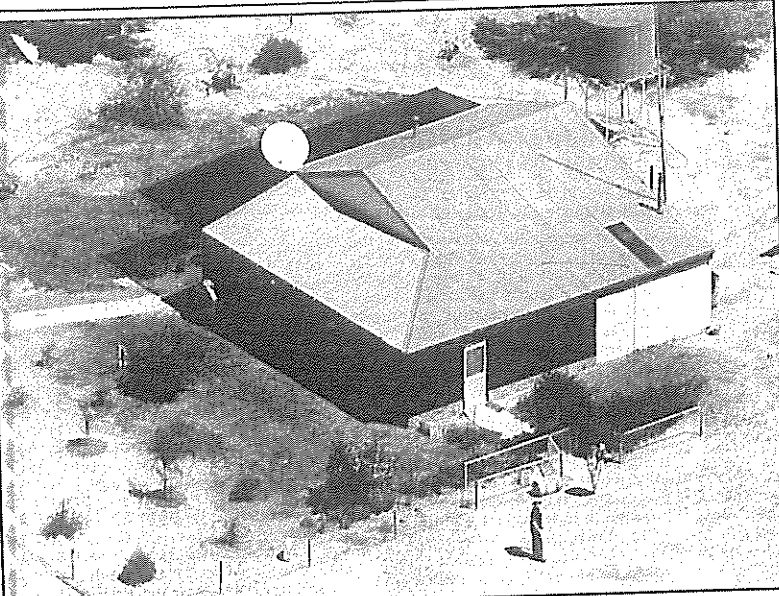
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Stranded: David and Vickie McQuie with their daughter Gabrielle at Bulga Downs homestead. The tree brought down by the floodwaters lies between them and the house. PICTURE: GUY MAGOWAN

Battlers mop up the mess

BY CARMELO AMALFI

NO ONE expects life to be anything but tough on a station in the outback, but you'd have a heart of stone not to weep for the people out there, struggling to keep smiles on their faces and make the best of it as they mop up after cyclone Bobby.

At the peak of the floods, Cindy and Lod Hurst at Sturt Meadows, 50km north-west of Leonora, watched in disbelief as floodwaters washed through their house.

They used a dip stick to measure the water level through an opening in the floor where a wall was removed recently.

"At one stage we had to stack up our lounge chairs, a washing machine was carried off and even a couple of the dogs floated away," said Mr Hurst, who flew *The West Australian* over the flooded area.

Mr and Mrs Hurst live on the 300,000-hectare property with his brother's family and also look after the unoccupied Ida Valley homestead, 50km to the west.

On February 27, 185mm of rain fell in one day and, when another 85mm fell the next day, the flood level reached the ignition key in the family car and half way up their Cessna plane.

"We would have lost about 500 sheep but it's hard to say until we can get out and look," Mr Hurst said.

They had hoped to start shearing 12,000 sheep by May.

Rehabilitated paddocks have been washed away and big sections of the 40km boundary fence were being repaired when *The West Australian* flew over the property.

From the air, the main pit at Dominion's Bannockburn gold mine, 65km north-west of Leonora, looks like a deep, dirty swimming pool. Other smaller pits are still operating but about a million dollars worth of equipment lies beneath the water.

At Bulga Downs, about 100km west of Sturt Meadows, six-months pregnant Vicki McQuie, her husband David and daughter Gabrielle, 2, wait for the flooded roads to drain.

Cut off after their air strip was eroded, the only way they can get out is by four-wheel-drive through soggy mulga country.

Mr Hurst made the trip last weekend to get supplies but Mrs McQuie has not been able to go to the school at Sandstone, 80km to the north-west, where she normally works two days a week.

Even though the house is elevated on mulga stumps, floodwaters lapped against the veranda.

A 20m river gum next to the house fell over but, luckily, in a spot where it caused little damage.

At Tarmoola, about 30km north-west of Leonora near the Kalgoorlie-Meckatharra road to

Leinster, Glen Craig said he was lucky not to have lost any stock.

When Sullivan Creek reached 5m deep and 80m wide, a station hand swam it to collect bread and milk flown in by Mr Hurst, who landed his plane on the other side.

One of the biggest problems is mosquitoes.

The Health Department has urged people not to go outside at sunset and to wear loose clothing, use repellents and keep flyscreens secured.

Russell Lockyer, at Glenorn Homestead, 50km south-east of Leonora, said mosquitoes hampered efforts to rescue hundreds of stranded sheep.

"They are dreadful and swarm at almost any time of the day," he said yesterday.

His brother Colin said sheep were hanging out of trees and drowning under the weight of their own fleeces. Shearing should have started three weeks ago.

"People don't realise how bad it is out here," Mr Lockyer said.

A spokesman for Transport Minister Eric Charlton's office said food and fuel were still being flown or trucked in and road repair equipment was on standby for when floodwaters receded.

The Kalgoorlie-Meckatharra road was reopened on Monday but the Kalgoorlie-to-Leonora railway link will not be reopened for another six to eight weeks.

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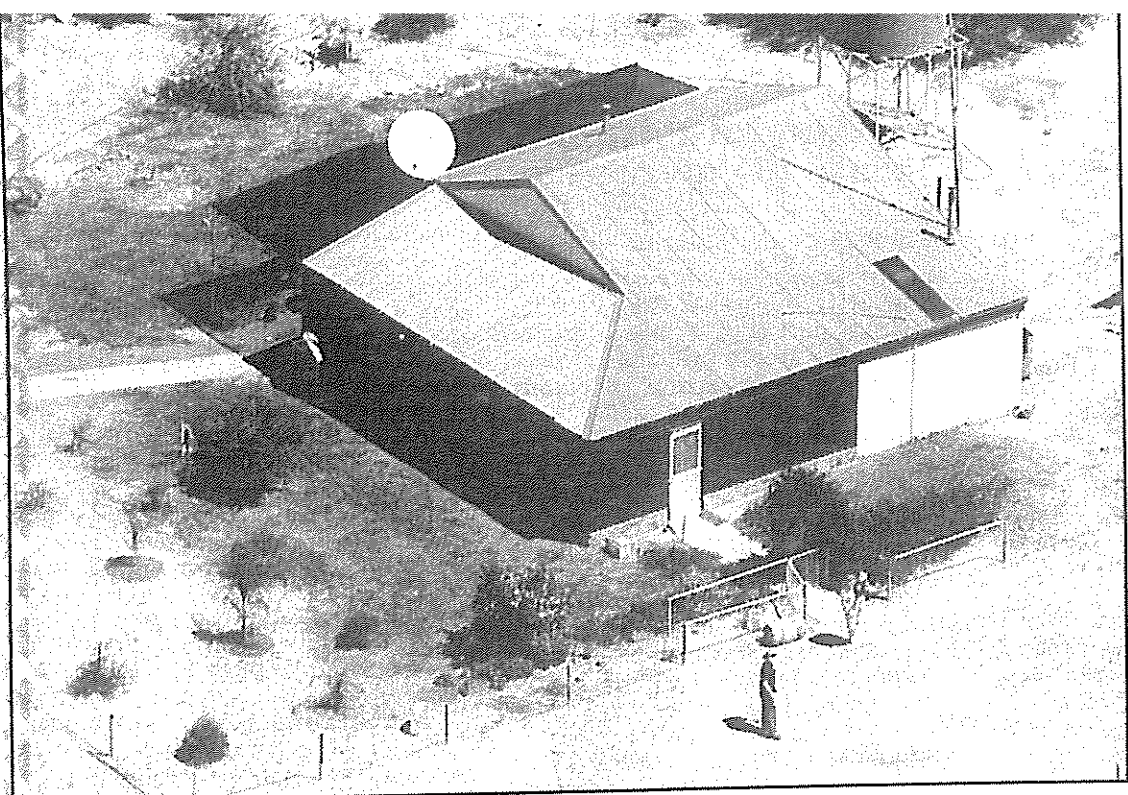
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