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\*Price correct as at 13.04.11



**BRIDGEMAN DOWNS**

# Our world faces a trying time

When we face difficulties, there are always a lot of adjustments to be made. I listened last week to a lady who was saying that having unwillingly participated in the Christchurch, New Zealand earthquake, her previous assumptions have been literally shaken to the core. She had assumed that the roadway would remain solid, but now reverberations from a passing semi-trailer transport her to the unsteady world of the earthquake zone. I know of a professional man who has suffered since the floods and he has terrifying flashbacks to those days and is unable to return to work. The mental scars of those in the floods of Goodna and Grantham are all too evident in the uncertainty that surrounds them. These heartaches are multiplied for families around Queensland from Roma to Rosewood and from Murphy's Creek to Mission Beach. People assumed they were insured against floods only to be told that there are fine distinctions in the small print of the policies. Cyclone Yasi may have come and gone but the pain, anguish and destruction lingers on as folk try to salvage the scraps of their lives left behind in the north. Now, the threat of terrorism looms large on the horizon, following the death of Osama Bin Laden. How will the al-Qa'ida react to avenge his death? Parents must share with their children if the youngsters show signs of anxiety. Many of our previous assumptions that we are so far away from the action in the Middle East that it won't bother us, are no longer valid. Telecommunications ensure that we have 'breaking news', as it happens and we need more than ever to keep families close and love our neighbours and be vigilant.

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**HOPE isn't merely a nice option that helps us temporarily clear a hurdle. It is essential for our survival. It is a wonderful gift from God, a source of strength and courage in the face of life's harshest trials. When we are trapped in a tunnel of misery, hope points us to the light at the end. When we are overworked and exhausted, hope gives us energy. When we are discouraged, hope lifts our spirits. When we are tempted to quit, hope keeps us going. When we lose our way and confusion blurs the destination, hope dulls the edge of panic. When we struggle with a crippling disease or a lingering illness, hope helps us persevere beyond the pain. When we fear the worst, hope reminds us that God is still in control. When we must endure the consequences of bad decisions, hope fuels our recovery. When we say our final farewell to someone we love, hope in the life beyond helps us through our grief. Webster defines hope. "Desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfilment...to desire with expectation of attainment...to expect with confidence." Put simply, when life hurts and dreams fade, nothing can help like hope. Remember, difficult situations have never been mastered by discouragement!**

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NOTHING can be as daunting as public speaking. In a list of fears it was number one. Death came sixth. A well-known story is of a first year Catholic student who gave his first address to his



## The Male Report With ALLAN MALE

peers in the Chapel. He worked all night on his sermon and still came up empty. He stood and looked out over his brothers. "Do you know what I am going to say?" They shook their head and indicated, "No," and he said, "Neither do I, the Service is ended, go in peace." Well, the Dean was angry and told the student he had better have a sermon the next day. The Novitiate stood the next day and said, "Do you know what I am going to say?" All of them nodded 'yes' so the preacher said, "There's no need for me to tell you. The Service is ended, go in peace." The Dean was livid. "Son, you have one more chance, preach the Gospel tomorrow, or you'll be expelled from the Seminary." "Do you know what I am going to say?" he said the third time. Half said yes and half said no. The young man said, "Those who know, tell those who don't know, the Service is ended, go in peace." This time the Dean smiled. He walked up to the novice preacher and said, "Hmmm...those who know, tell those who don't know. Today the Gospel has been proclaimed. The Service has ended, go in peace." That was last week's message of the two on the Road to Emmaus. They were trudging back to their home when Jesus accompanied them. They did not recognise Him until the 'breaking of the bread'. Once they realised He was alive they sprinted back to Jerusalem to tell the others. It's a great story recorded in Luke's gospel 24:13/35.

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**HYMN FEST at the Church of Christ, Carlyle Road, Boondall this Sunday, May 22 at 2pm. Guest soloist will be Norm Hodgkinson who will sing, 'My Tribute'. Kath Male will play the piano, Neil Linderberg will play the Wurlitzer organ, Les Armstrong will be song-leader and yours truly as compere. The theme will be 'Scripture in Song'. An offering will go towards the local chaplaincy in schools. Afternoon tea will follow - any contribution of food will be appreciated.**

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'GRACE CARD' is the name of a film soon to be screened in Brisbane. "Everything can change in an instant...and take a lifetime to unravel," which fits our theme today. "Mac's rage stonewalls his career in the police department and makes for a combustible situation when he's partnered with Sam Wright who happens to be a part-time pastor and a loving family man. Every day we have an opportunity to rebuild relationships and heal deep wounds by extending and receiving God's grace - this is God's love."

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**"The difference between 'try' and 'triumph,' is a bit of "umph." -A sandwich board outside a café in New Zealand.**

# Geebung club stages bridal expo

IF you have recently become engaged and you are starting to plan your special day don't miss the free Bridal Expo at Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club on Sunday, May 29, 10am-2pm.

Club marketing manager Holly Hansen said, "We understand that organising your wedding can be stressful and very hectic, so take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to speak to a range of exhibitors under the one roof.

"This is the fourth Bridal Expo the Club has run and this year we have over 30 exhibitors ranging from bridal wear and suit hire, hair and beauty, photography and videography, florists and many more services."

The Club's function coordinator Sue Hannant has been working with local wedding decorators

Enchanted Occasions to create a number of table settings which will be sure to 'wow' brides-to-be on the day.

"We have some fantastic prizes to give away at the expo, including a three night Fijian honeymoon which has been kindly donated by Wananavu Resorts and Angela Toia from Travel Counsellors," Holly said.

The Club has 150 'goody bags' to give away to brides-to-be which include an Ideal Bride magazine and samples from the exhibitors.

It is recommended to pre-register your attendance by phoning Holly on 3265 3711 or emailing holly@gzsl.com to ensure you don't miss out.

For more information visit the website [www.gzsl.com/bridal-expo](http://www.gzsl.com/bridal-expo)

## Beyond the Black Stump

By Leahy

