

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: My flood story
Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022 9:39:17 PM

Having been through the 2017 flood I prepared my downstairs art studio on Sunday morning.

My octogenarian neighbour and I exchanged information updates throughout the day. This was a usual thing for us to do. She had been through quite a few floods and her house had been her mothers so it had experienced even more.

In the early afternoon my mate and I lifted her mower and wood chipper up stairs on her landing. She stood under her umbrella in the rain with big smiles of gratitude for the assistance.

We touched base about her car and her sister's place in G/bah.

As the rain kept pelting down that afternoon I decided to take my car to my friend's place in Girards Hill. As we sat having a chat I noticed I got a text from the SES. Already on edge I took it as an evacuation notice so and I charged back to my place. We pulled everything up off the floor and stacked things as high as we could. I packed my cat and a bag for an approximate 2 -3 day evacuation.

By morning the water was coming up fast in yard toward her house. Her abode was considered to be out of the flood zone. After ringing friends in hope for another place to evacuate to we realised we couldn't leave Girards Hill. Finally we found a place to retreat to on higher ground within the "island". Even so the flood waters were still rising and this house was next to the edge of it. I was so worried then that we would have 5 people to evacuate which included a woman of 85 years and a 90 year old man with severe dementia.

After a sleepless night we were relieved to see the water level has stabilised. Waiting in this large dark house for the water to subside.. with no power and my cat locked in my room with me, I received the news that body had been found in her house.

My heart is completely broken that my much adored neighbour came to her end with her two dogs this way.

I have since learnt that she was indeed signalling with her torch to alert a for rescue.. but obviously to no avail.

When I checked my SES text I saw that it was a warning and not an evacuation order. I am glad I misread it and also now understand why so many people got caught in the nightmare flood.

Then for another very significant flood to occur a month later !

This is a very traumatizing experience. So many of our lives have been washed away.