

102801

FLOOD AFTERMATH:

This is the aftermath of N.S.W.' most devastating flood. Houses, almost submerged when the waters reached full height, reappear, their mud-caked walls standing in mute testimony to a week of terror. This is Maitland, still virtually a swamp. But the water's going down and people go back home -- anxiously..wondering what they can salvage from a life-time of saving. Believe it or not, he's trying to get his truck out. Some houses, caught in the racing fury of the current, are almost completely ruined. Yes, two weeks ago that was a family home. The swimming baths -- and, outside, much bigger pools -- pools of tragedy and destruction. Maitland moves out on to the streets. Furniture, muddy and waterlogged, is piled to dry. Here the floods have gone but the legacy of misery and loss remains.

An old lady tries to start again. Volunteer helpers from Newcastle and the coalfields are doing magnificent work. Water hyacinths torn from the river litter streets. Imagine your wireless - under water for days. And your house with a river running through it for a week -- water five feet deep in every room -- covering every piece of furniture you own. Not nice, is it? But that's what a flood means. Maitland salvages what it can -- and even floods cannot destroy the precious treasures of childhood. For N.S.W. the flood is a calamity. But for these people it is a personal tragedy, only realized now as the havoc is laid bare. Homes are damp, cold. There will be no gas for perhaps three months.

Army ducks bring food and clothing to the relief centre at the Town Hall. Clothing of any kind is a luxury -- as long as its dry. This Town Hall itself was inundated at the height of the flood. This might be wartime Europe -- but its peacetime Australia. Rushing floodwaters did this, sweeping away foundations, leaving homes perilously close to ruin. Problems of rebuilding have only just begun. At Greta Camp, refugees from the flood are given temporary accommodation. Most of them fled at a moment's notice as the water swept down on their homes. They're ill-clad and all are cold as temperatures topple in the freak weather. And the children are the worst sufferers in this ordeal by water.

The first train through Maitland -- only full production can compensate Australia for the losses of the flood, only with coal can be made the materials for building to bring hope and some comfort to the people of the stricken Hunter Valley.

FOX MOVIEZONE ALSO COVERED: Length: 260'

MUSICAL CUE SHEET.

Title of Film:	Cinesound Review - English Issue No. 588
Producer:	Cinesound Productions Pty. Ltd.
Distributors:	British Empire Films Pty. Ltd.,
Country of Origin:	Australia.
Length & Description:	260' Newsreel item

DESCRIPTION	USE E.P.	TITLE	COMPOSER	LENGTH:
Bkgd. Inst.	1	Battle March	De Wolfe	100'

FLOOD AFTERMATH: