

## **Jacqueline (Wanda) Edmonds Interview Cyclone Winifred**

Interviewer Name: Jordan Quabba

Participants Name: Jacqueline (Wanda) Edmonds

J Q Could you tell me your name?

JW A My name is Jacqueline Wanda Edmonds but I'm known as Wanda.

J Q Which cyclone did you experience? And what year it was?

JW A 1986 Babinda suffered a very severe cyclone, Winifred which badly affected the town and everyone in it.

J Q Can you tell me where you were when the cyclone struck?

JW A I was in my husband and my house at 188 Munro St, which is built of concrete block and all the walls are made of concrete block, so I felt very safe there.

J Q Was the structure you sheltered in damaged during the cyclone?

JW A We only had one bedroom window damaged that a tree had fallen against and broken the glass consequently all the carpet and everything in that bedroom got wet but otherwise other than water seeping through windows we were quite safe.

J Q Did you or anyone sheltering with you suffer any injuries?

JW A No-one had any injuries

J Q Were you given any warning that the cyclone was going to hit?

JW A Yes we did have a little bit of warning we were able to gather our pot plants and things that we had outside and put them in a safe spot but not like the warnings we get now of course.

J Q If any what response was there, for example SES?

JW A Yes the SES were shifting people into the Memorial Hall and places like that which we have now discovered that big empty halls blow down so um that isn't a safe place to shelter.

J Q Do you remember how long the cyclone lasted?

JW A Yes um it was blowing late afternoon and by dark it was getting really, really fierce and rather frightening because once it gets dark you can't see what's happening and um that's when it really is frightening because you can't see the sheets of iron and timber that was blowing around and great pieces of timber blew over the top of our house and sheets of iron we were extremely lucky that it didn't hit our roof.

J Q If you can remember, can you tell me how you felt during the worst of the storm?

JW A Very, very frightened the wind just howled and howled and you just can't imagine the sound of that horrible wind that was whining around the mountain.

J Q What is the most significant memory of that cyclone?

JW A The memory I have was that I was a cleaner at the school at the time and we had just made the school spic and span for the start of the school year and when we went up after the cyclone aw it was just devastation glass louvres had blown all over

the yard, trees and all the children's tidy boxes were full of water, ugh it was just heart breaking I could have cried at the mess and the poor little children that lost all their work and all their books it was just so sad.

J Q     Could you tell me how the event has affected you in the years since?

JW A    Um every time I hear wind now I just worry, worry all the time that a cyclone could come and someone's roof or house could be blown down.