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State Library calls for Queensland natural disaster records

The State Library of Queensland is calling for residents to help record the events of the 2011 floods and Cyclone Yasi for future generations.

Members of the public can help by contributing their images, videos, links to tweets, blog entries or websites they found useful during the crises, as well as other related ephemera, such as flyers distributed at the evacuation centres, posters and placards.

State Librarian Lea Giles-Peters said that one of the State Library's key goals is to collect, preserve and share Queensland memory as part of its John Oxley Library.

"The 2011 floods and Cyclone Yasi have been significant events in Queensland's collective memory," Ms Giles-Peters said.

"Natural disasters happen infrequently and so with the passing of time, memories of the last flood, cyclone or drought fade or become clouded. State Library's archive helps remind us, by capturing our individual and collective memories."

Ms Giles-Peters said that major flood and other natural disaster images are the most viewed in the State Library's collections and had been even before recent events.

"Last year when we looked at the number of image views on our website, of the top 10, eight of them were in relation to floods," Ms Giles-Peters said.

State Library collection staff have made a considerable start on acquiring relevant and significant materials to add to the already extensive collection of natural disaster-related materials.

"We have already received a significant collection of images depicting the flood devastation at Grantham in the state's South East," she said. "We also hope to add to our collection of cyclone related materials with donations from people who experienced Cyclone Yasi."

Ms Giles-Peters also encouraged people with 1974 flood-related photos, Super 8 film and other materials, to contribute them to State Library's already extensive collection.

People can contribute to the State Library collections by submitting their images or links to online sources to heritage@slq.qld.gov.au or by adding images to the State Library's 2011 Flickr photos group at www.flickr.com/groups/1573059@N25/.

Physical items can be posted to John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, PO Box 3488, South Brisbane Qld 4101.

More information on how to submit electronic images and video footage in the correct format is available online at www.slq.qld.gov.au/submitimages.

Media inquiries

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