



# The pressure is on

**J**OANNE and a friend of the injured boy ran the kilometre track back to the road where they could get mobile reception. They called emergency services and asked for an ambulance explaining what had happened. When the paramedics arrived, some first aid was administered to make the boy comfortable and he was transported to the District hospital. He had broken his arm and a few ribs in the fall but was told he should consider himself lucky. It could have been a lot worse. The mood in the car on the way back home was sombre. It had been a shock seeing someone being bounced off the rock face but it was a good reminder about how easily accidents could happen.

Later that afternoon, Josh and Joanne decided to sit on the jetty at the marina and throw a line in. The Bureau of Meteorology had issued another storm warning so it wasn't wise to take the boat out. Their dad was always check-

ing the BOM radar map online to see what the weather was doing. It provided up-to-date forecasts, warnings and weather observations – very important when your business revolved around the outdoors. Earlier that day a group staying at the caravan park had insisted on taking their boat out to go deep sea fishing. Mr Bodman had given them the weather prediction and boating conditions, explaining that a low pressure system had formed off the coast causing rough conditions. He suggested that if they were still determined to go out they should at least return early before the expected storm hit. As a member of the local Volunteer Marine Rescue crew, he knew only too well the things that could go wrong out at sea especially if warnings were not adhered to. Hopefully this group would do the right thing and not need rescuing.

By mid afternoon the boat limped back into the marina. It had

obviously been a rough trip. Some of the fisherman looked a little green – a sure sign of sea sickness. They said the sea was lumpy and messy and bubbling over. The fish weren't biting and they'd lost some stuff overboard. It had also been difficult getting back in through the mouth of the river. Josh and Joanne helped them unload and secure their boat to its mooring. It was unlikely the group would be going out again in a big hurry after this latest experience.

The news that evening brought further warnings of bad weather. The low pressure had developed into a category two cyclone. Cyclone Tatjana was moving towards the coast bringing with it damaging wind gusts, heavy rain and flooding. What was more worrying was the much larger cyclone further to the north east. Mr and Mrs Bodman had both experienced threatening cyclones and expected that these two would be downgraded as

they approached the coast and do what most cyclones in the past had done – start coming towards Wooloo then veer off. However they weren't going to take any chances. It was better to be safe than sorry. Tomorrow morning it would be all hands on deck securing the house, yard and marina and ticking jobs off the cyclone checklist.

Trying to get to sleep that night wasn't easy. Cyclone Tatjana's heavy rain pelted against the windows and it whistled a menacing tune as it crossed the coast further north in the early hours of the morning. It had lost some intensity and was classified as a severe tropical storm. Wooloo was spared any real damage but it continued to dump rain on the region. The prospect of Joanne and Josh doing anything adventurous the next day was very slim but they would still be busy preparing in case the category four cyclone, Uriah, decided to bear down on their piece of paradise.



**BLOWN AWAY**  
by the facts

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

IT IS essential to know what to do in an emergency. It is important to keep calm and be sure to know how and when to call 000 (112 for mobile phones). Triple-0 is Australia's primary emergency service number and should be used if urgent emergency assistance is required from either police, fire or ambulance services when a situation is threatening to life, property or is time critical. When you dial 000, the most important thing to remember is to stay focused, stay relevant and stay on the line.

## VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

EACH state in Australia has a volunteer marine rescue organisation that provides search and rescue services to the boating public. Volunteer Marine Rescue groups also offer a voyage planning service allowing recreational boat users to provide information about their trip.



**NEXT WEEK: CHAPTER 6 – The story continues**