

# Flood devastation sees vet relocate to Penguin

BY KYE WHITE

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QUEENSLAND flood survivors Roslyn and Mark Flanagan have chosen Penguin as the spot where they will rebuild.

Dr Flanagan, a veterinarian, and Mrs Flanagan, a veterinary nurse, were operating their business The Barnyard Vet in Minden, Queensland, on the Warrego Hwy for about 10 years.

The couple had faced floods before, but the second time around, in January last year, their business was completely destroyed.

Living in the Lockyer Valley, the Flanagans' property was spared by what would become known as the inland tsunami that caused widespread devastation in Withcott and Grantham.

"We were advised that there was this wall of water coming, and we were living on the creek it was coming on, but there were two tributaries to the creek, so we were lucky, unfortunately a lot weren't," Mrs Flanagan said.

That was January 10, 2011. In the early hours of January 11 the Flanagans were woken by a loud crash.



"It was 4am and we were woken by a bolt of lightning hitting just outside our kitchen window," Mrs Flanagan said.

"And it thunderstormed all day, it bucketed down and we must have had about 10 inches of rain in a couple of hours."

Around 5.30am that morning, with surgeries booked for the day, they continued to prepare to head to work.

"The bloke who had the shop behind us rang up at about half past five and said the water is getting away OK," Dr Flanagan said.

"Then at half past eight Ros rang the other bloke on the other side of us, and he said he was sitting on his roof waiting to get out."

That's how fast it all happened, and it would be a day or two before Dr and Mrs Flanagan could survey the damage.

"We had eight foot of water go through it," Dr Flanagan said.

"There were walls blown out."

In the aftermath Dr and Mrs Flanagan volunteered for the after-flood veterinary service but, sadly, weren't able to help as much as they would have liked.

"We saw the odd few, but unfortunately most of them were dead.

"We treated a miniature horse that had a big fence stake through its chest.

"One bloke had 20 horses and had to chose his best two to put in his truck, the rest just got washed away," Dr Flanagan said.



Flanagans, but one that didn't take long to make.

When the time came to decide whether or not to rebuild, it was a difficult one for the

"Mark said to me `well we're gone, do you want to go to Tassie?' and I said, `hell yeah, let's go'," Mrs Flanagan said.

"We may have rebuilt, but a little boy drowned just down from us, nobody could drive past there, because everybody knew him. You think you're over it, but you're not."

Dr and Mrs Flanagan, along with Ellie, 11, and Riley, 9, have been living at Penguin since hitting the road in a caravan in March last year.

Now they have a house of their own and are hoping their new incarnation of The Barnyard Vet will be a success.