

# HARDEN UP

## QUEENSLAND

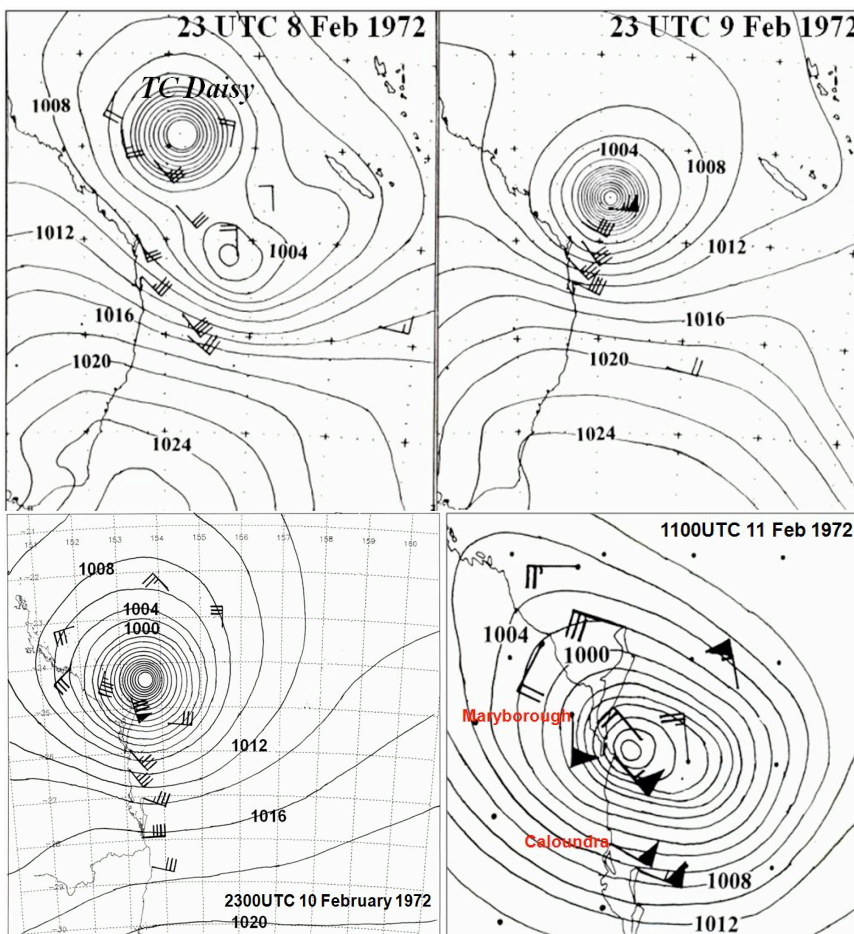
### CASE STUDY: Tropical Cyclone Daisy, February 1972

By Mr Jeff Callaghan

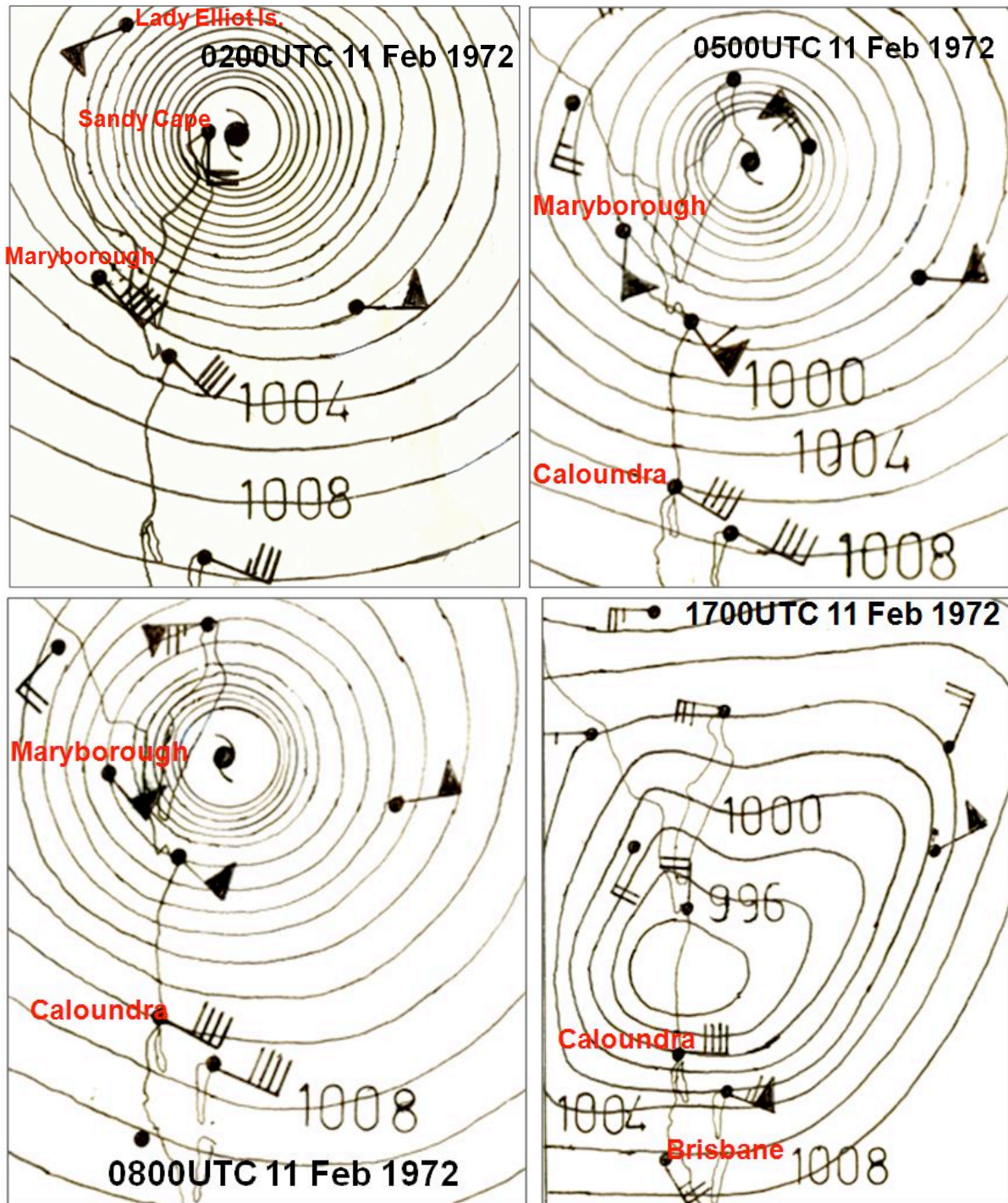
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*Tropical cyclone Daisy* made landfall on Fraser Island and the barometer at Sandy Cape dropped to 968.8 hPa. 200 homes were damaged at Pialba and more houses were unroofed in widely scattered townships. Forestry officials reported serious damage to forests near Maryborough and on Fraser Island. Flooding occurred throughout SE Qld with severe floods in Brisbane creeks. There was much damage to commercial stock in Brisbane. On the Gold Coast the mouth of Tallebudgera Creek silted up causing severe flooding upstream to commercial and domestic properties. Peak swell heights to 8.3 m were read at the South Nobby wave recording station on the Gold Coast. Severe erosion occurred down to Brunswick Heads and on the western side of Fraser Island where a 3 metre storm surge was reported. A noticeable storm surge at time of high tide was observed at; Sandy Cape, North Stradbroke, Woorim, Coolum, Tangalooma, Torquay, Sunshine Beach, and Brunswick Heads. At Tweeds Heads the surge brought high water an extra 2 ft (0.6 m) whilst Pumicestone reported a 2 ft 8in surge (0.8m).

Major flooding occurred in the upper and middle reaches of the Mary, upper Brisbane and Stanley rivers in association with heavy rainfall from Cyclone "Daisy". Flooding, with traffic disabilities, also occurred in Sunshine Coast streams and the Pine and Nerang rivers. Severe local flooding occurred in Brisbane City metropolitan creeks on the morning of Saturday 12nFebruary, following general falls of 175mm to 225mm in the 24-hour period.



**Figure 1** Mean Sea Level analyses of tropical cyclone *Daisy* for 2300UTC 8 February 1972 (9am AEST 9 February) top left, 2300UTC 9 February 1972 (9am AEST 10 February) top right, 2300UTC 10 February 1972 (9am AEST 11 February) lower left and 1100UTC 11 February 1972 (9pm AEST 11 February) lower right. The remnants of Ex TC *Wendy* can be seen south of *Daisy* in the top left frame.



**Figure 2** Mean Sea Level analyses of tropical cyclone *Daisy* passing to the east of Fraser Island and weakening, for 0200UTC 11 February 1972 (noon AEST 11 February) top left, 0500UTC 11 February 1972 (3pm AEST 11 February) top right, 0800UTC 11 February 1972 (6pm AEST 11 February) lower left and 1700UTC 11 February 1972 (3am AEST 12 February) lower right.