

## Storm Stories Transcript

### Famia Pooley

JULIE: This is Julie Christie interviewing Famia Pooley of Cardiff about the storms of June 8-11, 2007.

FAMIA: So yeah, well the first, that I saw it flooding, it was, it when, a big sort of whoosh of it, and sort of the cars were beginning to, it was rising sort of to the wheel level and a little bit higher and I sort of popped my head out and had a look at the water gushing down the footpath and this lady's like 'I don't know how I'm going to get into my car'. Anyway, and so that was her problem [laughs] no but that was her, I'm like yeah this is, this is shocking and, so I went back inside and, and then, you know, just pulled Gail out of the consult room and sort of said you know have a look at the front and, and it was beginning to lap up to the, to the steps and I'm just like 'woah' but she had someone in, in the consult room. And then she had a, whatever it was, she went out the back to the cattery, she said 'you better get those cats out of there because, the waters lapping at the door', so I went out there and it was ankle deep so I had to, you know, take my shoes off and that sort of thing and yes so I, I was about to do that actually rolling, you know, my pants up and it just started to come in through up through the, the drain in the prep room, the water actually started to actually come up, and, and yeah, and then I'm like 'Gail, hmmm its coming up through the drain' and she says and I went in to grab a towel, just to mop that up and it started coming through the wall and like through all the, skirting boards, it was leaking everywhere, like hmmm 'I'm going to need more then a couple of towels.' So I actually found it exciting like I wasn't scared at all. I know Gail was freaked out cause you would be it's your business and I'm sort of yeah it was very surreal and yeah so that just came up really quickly so I ran out and grabbed the cats and then blacked out, out there so we couldn't see it all so we are just grabbing these cats you know, you know madly and its you know raining really hard and yeah so the cats are freaking out just because of the rain and the water by that time it was probably shin height so she brought them in to the hospital cage room and put them in the high cages and just had to keep going out and doing that, so consults, all consults stopped even though it was only like fine in there, it was near closing time anyway and so we raced in and getting the cats, and it just kept rising, and yeah we pushing the doors open, it was really, it just reminded me of Titanic, so you know them pushing, and their wading through the water and I got these cats clinging on and you know one ripped my shirt and just all this sort of thing, and it was crazy. And yeah there was this German Shepherd in one of the lower cages, and it was supposed to be staying there overnight I'm like what are we going to do, because it couldn't walk so it had spinal injuries, it couldn't walk you know it's like fifty kilo German Shepherd. By that time the, the people who worked, like the beauticians, they came, a few of them came, to see what we were doing and they were holding the door open letting it, sort of wash out cause it had risen inside as well, and so it was yeah flushing out just like yeah current going straight through, well on the hallway and they was doing that and all these fellows from

up the road came down, I thought they were the SES at first, but they just, they were just, yeah doing it off their own, like just making sure everyone was ok. They had a few flashlights and things cause it had blacked out by then, yeah, so they helped us move the German Shepherd we had to get him on a big blanket but yeah by that time it was sort of lapping up to the cage where he was and all of us thought he's going to die if we leave him overnight there. It was funny I remember I was in the cage room and it was you know round my knees then and I'm like oh cause there's this little step that leads out to the back, and, I thought oh maybe I could open the door and let a bit of the water out there. I opened the door and it's the exactly the same level outside it was just like oaky doke so I'm not getting rid of water that way. Yeah its just sort of things like that, that was very, yeah it was really, I thought it was exciting, something that yeah its just like wow this is, this is a really interesting evening [laughs] and yeah but it was quite pretty exciting.

Then we went, Gail and I went out the front cause you know its, its flooding inside so we thought its coming from the drain we had a look at the drain and it was totally overflowing and there was debris, rock, blocking, blocking the fence sort of as if it was, you know it was almost like a, a mesh catching it and so well look if we can move this stuff like all the, you know, tree branches and there was the rubbish bin, and its pissing down rain and it was freezing like we were wet to the, wet to the core right then and this is like mental rain, it wasn't just like lightly coming down, it was harsh and the, and the water from the drain was you know ripping up through us and and right, like right then I felt really sort of a survival, so that was, that was fun for me, even though yeah your obviously working on adrenaline and stuff. But it was really quite yeah I sort of like and putting all your ore into it like everything to try to move it, it was really yeah so and I haven't sort, I haven't experienced before. And yeah you're putting your everything into it and no matter what, like it doesn't matter how cold you were or how you know sore it made you feel to try and move this stuff out, but we couldn't move it, it was just way too heavy but yeah we put, we put all our energy into it and stuff. Yeah so we couldn't, there was no luck with that so we just sort of, just ran inside and tried to do what we could to you know save the, well get as much water out as we could and stuff like that, we had to put the cats in the carry basket yeah and then there was a few more people milling around in this little waiting, oh helping us because the beautician had a, had a father who was sitting and, and he was apparently had just had a heart, I don't know, operation or something and so she's like I [unclear] so he was sitting there and she was opening our door, and there was a, still a few people around, that, that weren't, you know part of the clinic or anything. Yeah

JULIE: What about after it was over, after the adrenaline rush?

FAMIA: Um

JULIE: Did you feel that you'd been through a really dangerous situation or?

FAMIA: Yeah, yeah I guess the realisation set in and I was like wow that was quite dangerous and, and stuff like that and just really but I think I still just going on the buzz of it id been through something quite unreal and, but I didn't feel, like I think Gail said she felt like she was in shock where as I was just like woah this

is great [laughs], not great but

JULIE: What about the animals? How were they coping at this stage?

FAMIA: Oh they were, cause they were wet and they were scared, yeah we felt really bad for them and they were, cause we transported them over to Gail's car, and once they got, they got wet on the way across in the rain and so they were making horrible noises and, and just sitting in there shivering and ohhhhhh, felt so sorry for them but in the end there was like 6 cages in the back of her car, and there was her dog and then another ladies dog who was still here [unclear] when it all happened so yeah it wasn't yeah I wish they could have been in a better situation but I suppose just getting them out of there was the main thing.

JULIE: What about the dog who couldn't walk? Where was he?

FAMIA: He was at a client's house up the road, he went in after, and he was in just an empty room with blankets, well the blanket that we carried him over there with, and yeah and he was not looking that great, and he was cold and the room was really cold and, but at least he was dry and safe so but yeah just...

JULIE: And how is he now? Do you know?

FAMIA: Yeah he's actually alright, yeah, he's, he's cool but yeah and all the cats were, tried to warm them up cause he had a fire and there were all these people there who were must have worked in the shops and things and yeah so we tried to warm the cats up and rotate them round and stuff like that so yeah it wasn't great, it wasn't that great for them but at least yeah they were warming up and sort of drying off as well.