Grantham 2011

Malcolm

Did you see the waters rising, did your house fill up with mud

Did your friend down by the river lose his business to the flood

Did you help them with the cleanup, did you watch from your penthouse pad

Well listen to my story then tell me you had it bad

They had floods up in Toowoomba, a modern growing town High on the escarpment, they saw a number drown By the time the waters hit us in the middle of the plain They had all that pent-up energy and were going like a train

They tore our houses open, swept everything away At first it didn't look too bad, we thought we'd be okay But we watched from an upper window as our neighbours' house disappeared Like ours it was up on stumps but its fastenings must have sheared

As night came on we felt the house begin to fall apart We crawled out of a window onto a tree branch in the dark We clung there till the morning wet and cold and petrified The house had gone and we were numb but we were lucky to survive

A family we knew tried to escape in a fire truck It was a desperate manoeuvre and they ran out of luck The son and father floated out and climbed up separate gums The wife and daughter drowned right there and they weren't the only ones

In our small community twenty-eight in all were lost Most of the houses gone or wrecked, we can't even count the cost But here just four months later crops are growing in the field And a man and a boy hand in hand are beginning to rebuild

Repeat verse one