

Fire rips through Newtown home



By LACEY BURLEY
lacey.burley@
thechronicle.com.au

A NEWTOWN man lost his home and all his possessions when a fire ripped through his house early yesterday.
A Queensland Fire and Rescue

Service spokeswoman said the resident called for help when a blaze ignited at his Rome St home at 2.20am.
Three fire crews, paramedics and police went to the scene but the home was engulfed in flames when they arrived.
Firefighters spent almost one hour controlling the blaze and finished extinguishing final hot

spots at 5.20am.
Fire crews left just after 5.36am.
The man was not injured and had escaped the burning home before fire crews arrived. The cause of the fire is not known but it is not suspicious.
A number of homes have been destroyed by fire in the region this month including a blaze which destroyed a Stanthorpe family's home on Monday.



HOME DESTROYED: Fire gutted a Newtown home early yesterday. A man escaped without injury but lost his possessions.
PICTURE: NEV MADSEN



ROYAL PARTY: The Party Hut owner (front) Paul Mason celebrates the royal wedding with (back, from left) Karen Parkinson, Millie McDonald, Anna Tan and Janel Ehrlich.
PICTURE: NEV MADSEN

City set to party 'royally' hard

By ANTHEA GLEESON
anthea.gleeson@thechronicle.com.au

TOOWOOMBA'S king of parties Paul Mason could not have predicted that the city's royal fever would run so high.
The owner of The Party Hut said he was surprised that so many people had taken an interest in Prince William and Kate Middleton's royal wedding.
For the past week Mr Mason and his staff had struggled to keep up with demand for all

things royal-related including tiaras, Union Jack flags, Queen masks and English-themed costumes.
"It has been surprising," Mr Mason said.
"I didn't know how it would pan out, but trade has been very good."
"Anything with an English theme has been popular."
Costumes of former English politicians, story book characters and even animals have been in high demand.

"We have been hiring out a lot of horses (costumes)," Mr Mason said.
"I thought it was because the Queen is interested in racing, but some people have been saying they have been using the horses as Camilla costumes."
Mr Mason said royal-wedding themed parties and high-teas were happening across the city.
"There has only been one English person, the rest have been Australians — any excuse for a party."

"I didn't know how it would pan out, but trade has been very good."
— Paul Mason

Our Barb amongst pomp of wedding

By ADAM DAVIES
Adam.Davies@thechronicle.com.au

AS SOON as the date was set for the royal wedding, Chronicle editorial assistant Barb McGovern knew exactly where she would be today.
Immediately she was on the phone to her travel agent to make changes to her planned holiday to ensure she was in London for the wedding of the century.
"The atmosphere is just incredible and London is all decked out in flags, pomp and ceremony, and crazy Brits sleeping out for days to get the best spot to see it all," Ms McGovern said yesterday.
The self-confessed "Royal tragic" said the whole of London was abuzz with royal fever with people of all ages getting into the party spirit.
"I joined the Sunrise team and found myself chatting to a young Gen Y lad who chose to take his clothes off down to his Aussie jocks with signs all over his body saying hello to his mum back home," she said.
Be sure to get tomorrow's Chronicle to read all about Ms McGovern's royal wedding experience.

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Kevin 0414 969 766
Business Fleet Quote Hotline - Fax 07 4638 1948
Email: fleetquotes@butlertoyota.com.au