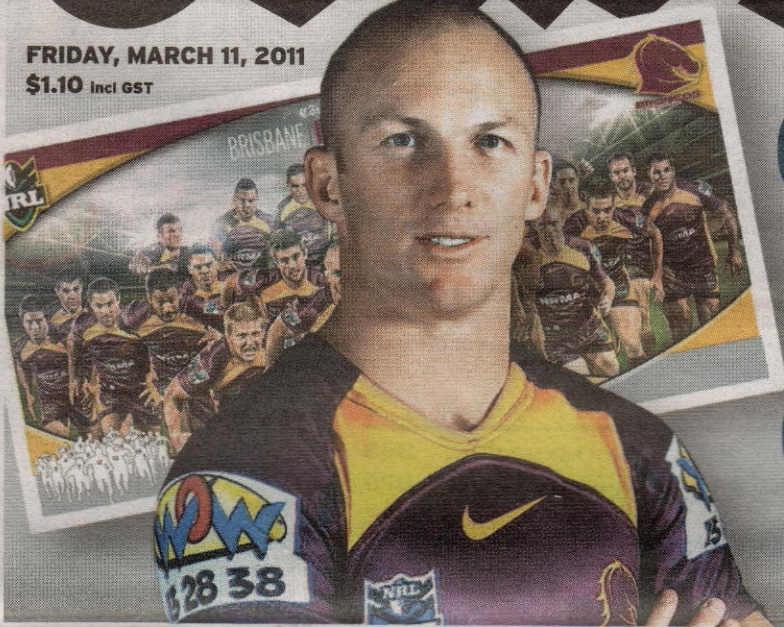


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...ds good Will visit



Toowoomba Mayor Peter Taylor believes a visit to his flood-ravaged community by the royal would do wonders. "He'd be very, very welcome and he would encourage and inspire people, particularly those that have been through some hard times," he said yesterday. "I think it would be very good for Toowoomba and our region to potentially show the world that we are up and going and we are doing well as a community."

The Dalai Lama will also visit Australia for a national tour from June 15 to 17. The Buddhist leader will conduct a free forum in Brisbane to help flood victims cope with their losses. About 8000 free tickets will be available for the June 17 session at the Riverstage in Brisbane's Botanic Gardens. He will also visit Canberra, Melbourne and Perth.

...may include Brisbane, Toowoomba and Far North Queensland. William is due to visit Queensland on March 11. He moves on to flood-ravaged areas of northwestern Queensland on March 21. He is the Australian leg of the tour. He will visit earthquake-ravaged Christchurch and travel to the south coast on the South West coast near the site of the Pike River mine disaster.

Terri wisely talks up tourism at book launch

TERRI Irwin has urged Queenslanders to hitch up their caravans and holiday at home to help battling tourism businesses like her Australia Zoo survive.

On the Gold Coast yesterday for the launch of a book on inspirational women, Mrs Irwin (pictured) threw her weight behind a new \$10 million campaign to help the sodden Sunshine State's tourism industry recover from a summer of disasters.

She admitted her Sunshine Coast zoo, along with many other Queensland tourism businesses, had suffered a visitor slump as tourists cancelled bookings amid misconceptions the entire state was ravaged.

Despite the continuing high Australian dollar encouraging cheap overseas travel - and more flooding in Far North Queensland - Mrs Irwin said she was confident the new



campaign would work. But she said it would rely on Australians agreeing to "help their mates" by holidaying in Queensland.

"I think that now is the time, given all the events that have happened, to look to our own country," she said.

"This flood effect has gone right across the nation.

"Everyone's got that caravan, everyone's meant to take that

trip and now's the time to do it. Mrs Irwin recently denied reports her zoo was in financial strife after more than 20 staff were laid off, but admitted the attraction had been hit by Queensland's weather woes.

She also said she had been forced to "consolidate and re-evaluate", including putting plans to replicate the zoo in Las Vegas on the backburner.

Mrs Irwin is one of 50 women in the book *Women's Words of Wisdom, Power and Passion*.

The book was written by Gold Coast publicist and socialite Karen Phillips, a former girlfriend of Australia's "First Bloke", Tim Mathieson.

Mr Mathieson's partner, Prime Minister Julia Gillard, is also in the book along with the likes of singers Olivia Newton-John and Kasey Chambers and fashion designers Collette Dinnigan and Carla Zampatti.

Greg Sto...