



Спілка Української Молоді
Осередок ім. Гет. Івана Мазепи – Мельборн
Ukrainian Youth Association – Melbourne Inc.



Friday February 7, 2010

Black Saturday –
one year on....

from these ashes
a new dawn will begin...

It was with this simple catch-phrase that a year ago, in the aftermath of one of the worst bush fires in Victoria's history, CYM Melbourne embarked on an unplanned, and even unimaginable journey, that will no doubt take many years to complete.

It is difficult to believe that it is a year ago today since the tragic events of Black Saturday unfolded. It is on this day that many people, including some of our friends from the local Marysville community, lost their lives, many more lost loved ones, and a whole community was left decimated. It is also within this tragedy, that CYM lost its beloved Karpaty camp site – a place that was built up over many generations, a place that was enjoyed by thousands of people, and ... a place that was our home...

The last year has been difficult. Such devastation brings with it many emotions. There was the initial response of "let's quickly rebuild what we had", other responses of "let's sell and move on", and many others in between. The soberness of time has revealed many steps that must be taken before any rebuild can commence. Whilst the cleanup of demolished buildings and the removal of dead and dangerous trees have occurred, many other tasks continue, starting from the installation of basic infrastructure through to many discussions with Government bodies & agencies, engagement with landscape architects and several professional camping

associations and much more. We hope that all this will lead us not to just “rebuild Karpaty”, but more importantly rebuild Karpaty into a facility that will service our needs and be a first class facility that will benefit CYM & its members for many generations to come.

The new dawn is the new opportunity for CYM. From this tragedy, we must ensure that the new dawn leads us into is a long and fruitful day for the benefit of all our members.

Many of us were at Oselya Karpaty for Svyato Mykhayila (St Michael’s Day) in November. The post spring vision of greenery, of new growth, new life was uplifting. The ability to see our oselya at its barest, with no buildings, with only the green re-growth on a charcoal backdrop, gave us an ability to truly appreciate what we had. The nakedness of the oselya, also opened up views across the river and towards the hills, that have never been seen before. The physical assets may be gone, but the memories remain, and it is with those memories in mind, we will join together as one family to not only build new buildings, new facilities, but more importantly build the framework for new aspirations and new memories.

As we sit and reflect on the tragic events of a year ago today, and remember our angst at not knowing what had happened, we should also remember how the tragedy that was unfolding around us, put so many things in our very own lives into perspective. It is with that perspective, with that hindsight that we should continue to grow as individuals, and continue to grow as a community because *...from those ashes a new dawn has begun...*



