



Спілка Української Молоді

Осередок ім. Гет. Івана Мазепи – Мельборн

Ukrainian Youth Association – Melbourne Inc.



16th February 2009

Let's "REBUILD AUSTRALIA'S KARPATY" *from these ashes a new dawn will begin*

As has been widely reported in recent days, the Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM) Melbourne has lost its Outdoor Education Centre (Oselya Karpaty) in the "Black Saturday" fires in the Narbethong/Buxton/Marysville area. The shocking firestorm devastation of the landscape and destruction of the facilities built by many members of our organisation over the last 45 years is visible from the front gate through to the far corners of the property. Nothing could have prepared us for the depressing scenes that have unfolded over the last few days. The original hall is a pile of twisted metal, the old kitchen has been flattened, just the chimney remains, the kitchen/dining totally destroyed, and the hardest to absorb – the new Administration centre gutted and will need to be rebuilt.

The Association purchased the property at Buxton in 1963. Since then it has been steadily developed it into an Outdoor Education centre for its members. Named the "Australian Karpaty", it provides a lasting memory of the majestic Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine for our forebears, whom were so instrumental in ensuring a place for their children and grandchildren to learn the traits of good citizenship, culture and heritage. "Karpaty" has grown and continued to be developed with the addition of new facilities over the last 45 years. Every major development at the site has been built on a volunteer basis, with the bare hands of now three generation of proud Australian Ukrainians. Camps, classes, have been held for local young people as well as thousands from interstate and from all corners of the world have attended the site for a variety of youth events over more than 4 decades.

In time our children will once again run through the native bush of our Australian Karpaty, swim in the Acheron River, and gather to sit around a traditional vatra (camp fire) at night talking, singing songs, toasting marshmallows and sharing a good laugh as they watch the skits put on by young members. They too will have the opportunity to forge lifelong friendships at camp, just like their parents and others from previous generations have done.

As hard as it may seem at this moment, we will rise to the challenge. We will use this opportunity to build on the passion for our beloved Karpaty. We will rise because ***from these Ashes, a new dawn will begin.***

Our planning and review has already begun. Our rebuilding program will in time also commence. Whilst insurance will undoubtedly cover some of the costs, it was never envisaged that a total rebuild would ever be required. The buildings and infrastructure on the property has been built up over 45 years. We realise that there will be a substantial shortfall of funds required to bring back the magnificence of our Karpaty.

The Ukrainian Youth Association Melbourne is therefore launching an appeal to ***Rebuild Australia's Karpaty.*** We ask that you show support for our children, to our future generations of Australian Ukrainians and so that they too may enjoy what so many before them had.

The ***Rebuild Australia's Karpaty*** Appeal is being run by the Ukrainian Youth Association Melbourne under the auspices of the **World Congress of Ukrainians**, the **World Executive of the Ukrainian Youth Association** and the **Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations** and is being coordinated by the National Executives of the Ukrainian Youth Association in each country.

Head Office:

Ukrainian Youth Assoc. of Australia – Melbourne Inc.

A.B.N.: 65 749 051 991

Postal Address:

3 - 11 Russell Street, Essendon Victoria 3040

E-mail Address:

P.O. Box 372, Essendon Victoria 3040 Australia

Outdoor Education Centre:

melbourne@cym.org

Maroondah Highway, Buxton Victoria 3711

Phone: (03) 5774 7228

Banking Details for Australia are:

CYM Melbourne Banking Details:

Direct debit: Dnister Credit Co-op

BSB 704-235

Acc No.00000958

Name: Ukrainian Youth Association-Melb

Ref: your name-"Karpaty Fire"

KY CYM (National Executive Australia) Bank account Details

Financial Institution: Karpaty Ukrainian Credit Union Ltd

BSB: 802 334

Member No./Account Details: 21484

Name: Ukrainian Youth Assoc of Aust National Executive

Ref: your name-"Karpaty Fire"

International Details:

Beneficiary Bank: Karpaty Ukrainian Credit Union, 27-29 Church Street Lidcombe NSW 2141

Account Name: Ukrainian Youth Assoc of Aust National Executive

Account No.: 21484

BSB/Branch No.: 802 334

SWIFT Code: CUSCAU2SXXX



Above: SouthWest view of the destroyed Kitchen / Dining room



Above: The twisted metal mess of the original Hall

Above: The CYM logo once stood proudly at the entry