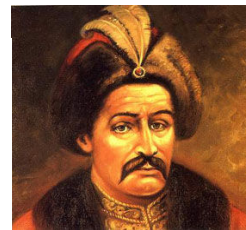




# Спілка Української Молоді

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



13<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**FRIDAY:**

**UPDATE FROM CYM MELBOURNE**

# OSELYA KARPATY DESTROYED

*from these ashes  
a new dawn will begin*

The Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM) Melbourne has continued to closely monitor the situation in and around the Narbethong/Buxton/Marysville area, for further news of the destruction that has occurred and specifically for more details in regard to Oselya Karpaty. Late this evening we have received some further photos which only further deepen the sorrow we are already feeling. One can only imagine how ferocious the fire on our beloved Oselya could have been.

The 2 photos depict the damage to the original hall (more recently our games & recreation facility) and of our kitchen/dining complex. The Hall was one of the first buildings built in the 1960's and over the years the walls became a mural of artwork depicting the various camps that had taken place over time. The Kitchen/Dining facility was completed in 1992 in time for Oselya Karpaty to host the Ukrainian Youth Association's World Gathering & camp, which saw members not only from all over Australia, but also from the USA, Canada, Great Britain and from the homeland of our parents, Ukraine, which only 12 months earlier had declared it's independence.

The Ukrainian Youth Association purchased the property at Buxton in 1963, and developed it into an Outdoor Education centre for its members. The facility has grown and continued to be developed with the addition of new facilities over the last 45 years. Everything that was built there, everything that was done there, was done on a volunteer basis. Our members have a long and proud history of volunteering for the benefit of our children, for the benefit of our community. The Association has always instilled into its members the values of good citizenship, community spirit – and we are proud of the way our members have just this week shown those values, that spirit in bonding with local community to help our neighbours in this terrible time.

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The centre has served the Association well as an outdoor education centre to further fulfil its programs such as cultural awareness, understanding of one's heritage, bush safety & awareness, sporting programmes and more.

We thank everyone for their show of support. We have received numerous phone calls and e-mails. These have come from all over the world – concerned about what has happened, and offers of help in any way possible. Thank you to the executives & membership of the Ukrainian Youth Association from our Australian branches as well as national and local bodies from all over the world, including our World Executive body. Also thank you to the Australian Federation Of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO), the Ukrainian Scouts – Plast, and from many other organisations for their words of support. And thank you as well to the countless individuals from everywhere who have rung or written. We thank you for that support.

Our planning and review has begun. Our rebuilding program will also begin, Insurance will cover so much, but sadly it appears there will be a large shortfall, as it appears that all infrastructures will also need to be rebuilt, all equipment has been lost, and not all was covered.

In time our children will once again run through the native bush of our Australian Karpaty, swim in the Acheron, and they will once again sit around a vatra (camp fire) at night singing songs, toasting marshmallows and sharing a good laugh. They too will have the opportunity to forge lifelong friendships at camp, just as many of their parents and others of the previous generations have done.

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



**Above:** Looking west towards the Hall and river. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Monument is in the foreground

**Right:** The Hall can be seen in the background







**Above:**  
*Looking south east  
at the Kitchen / Dining  
facility*

**Right:**  
*The Kitchen / Dining  
Facility as it once was.*

