

Sunshine Advocate

Fire was nearly master

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FIRE NEARLY WAS MASTER

Lit on Monday to clear a building block in the Chapman - Graham Street area, a fire nearly got the upper hand. It was lucky someone rang the fire brigade.

When they arrived they found two fellows, one with a rake, the other with a piece of sacking, who thought they had everything under control.

But the fire was already among a clump of boxthorn and a decent puff of wind would have sent it blazing through to houses and Parsons' horsehair factory.

Firemen said had it done so it would have jumped the creek and made towards Sunshine Heights, with dozens of houses in its path.

To put it out the firemen took nearly two hours. They were on tenterhooks all the time because a goodly outbreak had occurred near Myers bulk store off Geelong Road and they were expecting a call to assist with it.

JOB FOR EXPERTS

Fire brigade officials said yesterday that lighting fires may be a simple way of carrying out council instructions to clear vacant land from danger, but it should be done by experts with adequate material.

They asked for a message to be put over, especially to New Australians, that no fire may be lit or maintained in any fire-place or anywhere else in the open on a broadcast warning day of acute fire danger. Penalty may be up to £200 or two years or both.

MORE OUTBREAKS

This summer has seen a great increase in calls answered by Sunshine firemen. The figure in November was 129 compared with 55 the previous year and in December, 138 compared with 100.

Serious consequences were averted when a fire was halted near buildings in South Sunshine on Wednesday last week. By strenuous efforts it was kept clear of the Market Timber Co. stacks and buildings but it burnt 20 acres of grass before being stopped near Fifth Avenue.

On Friday last 80 acres of grass and 10 tons of baled hay were destroyed by a fire which started in Glendenning Lane near Ballarat Road, Deer Park and raced through nearly to Taylor's Road, St Albans. Derriant and Sydenham volunteer brigades helped keep it in check.

Fifty acres were blackened on New Year's Day when an outbreak at the end of Duke St, behind the quarries, swept along the river until it stopped near the loop line bridge.

MISES ME A YEAR

steady progress of commercial future. ing year.

shoppers. That has been proved at Footscray and farther afield at Chadstone, which has bitten into neighbouring commercial areas and forced traders there to combine for their own protection and organise the purchase of nearby residential properties to protect their investments.

MOTOR EIA

In the case of Sunshine, car parks have been provided and others are planned. Some of the existing ones are close to shops; some could be closer still, and with proper planning would be closer.

The day has passed when the housewives — or their husbands — submit to the role of pack-