

Vol. 20, No: 11

ONE TREE HILL

December 1997

GRAPEVINE

This monthly newspaper is published by the One Tree Hill Progress Association. Its purpose is to share local news, views and events. We want to encourage local people and groups to share what they are doing and to pass on items of interest to one another. A minimum of 50 cents donation to the cost of printing the Grapevine would be very much appreciated. (Donation tins are available in some of the local shops). We are happy to include some advertising from local businesses, and small classified Ads from individuals. Please contact Jill McLatchie, ph 8280 7214 for details of the cost. Maximum size for advertisements is one quarter of a page. Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday January 26th 1998 at 6.00pm at the Deli. Please leave items in an envelope marked Grapevine at the General Store well ahead of the deadline if possible.

ONE TREE HILL COUNTRY MARKET

To be held on Saturday December 6th. 9.00am until 2.00pm.(approx.)

Come and enjoy country produce, craft, Bric a brac, plants, good things to eat and much more! Come and buy your unusual Christmas presents. See you there! If you want to book a site (and if there are any sites left) phone June on 8287 3306.

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General enquiries (after 5pm) 8280 7206 or 8280 7059
Fire ban Information CFS Headquarters (24 hours) 82971000



EDITORIAL

The year is drawing to an end which is a surprise because I am not sure where 1997 has gone! Grapevine time always seems to come round quickly too! This will be the last Grapevine of the year and we don't have an edition in January. As usual at this time of year I have to thank my helpers. This includes Chris Adlard, David Parker, and Ann Davenport who have all been involved with layout this year. Ann has also done a sterling job of getting the copy to the printer and organising the folding and distributing. A big thank you to our folders too. I would also like to thank all of you who have contributed both financially and through your reports, writing and contributions. Without the support of the community this newsletter would not exist.

Being editor is a very rewarding job and I enjoy it. However having done it now for four years I am wondering if there is anyone else in the community who would like to take it on. I would be very willing to give any budding editor assistance so please if there is any body who is interested please let me know.

Please keep your contributions coming in. Don't forget you can email me on /imclatch@camtech.net.au/ if you are computer literate and you can also send me a fax at the phone number on the cover page. I welcome letters stories, funny incidents, even complaints so lets have lots of input.

When putting adverts in please put your money in with your advert as it saves our hard working treasurer from having to chase you up. Remember it is \$15 for an 1/8th page size and \$25 for 1/4 page size. Classified Ads are 10 cents a word. Please make out your cheque to the One Tree Hill Progress Association. While we will do our best to design your ad, remember we are not graphic artists and would prefer you to design your own. Also we don't own photocopiers so please shrink your ad to the right size first. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in One Tree Hill.

Jill McLatchie, Editor.

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ONE TREE HILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Environment Report

Several weeks ago, representatives from Progress Association and the Equestrian Club met with Bob Pitt from Playford Council, Paul Smith from Land Care and Councillor Mike Stevens to continue discussions on the issue of horses using the roadside track on the southern side of Blacktop Road on the east side of the township. The Council, in following legislation to preserve roadside native vegetation, wanted to ban the use of this track for horses, as they were seen to be contributing to the erosion of some sections and endangering the growth of some plants. The argument against this was that the track was an established pathway for riders from that area into the township and the Equestrian Club on Precolumb Rd and forcing horses and riders onto the road in a 100kph zone, particularly at the top of the rise, was creating a safety hazard. In reaching a compromise, it was decided that Council would make a fenced track through some sections of the roadside bush (especially near the rise) which would come out onto the road in some places in consideration of (1) the safety of the road (2) the sensitivity of the vegetation. Council was also going to negotiate with a local landowner about repositioning the path at one spot to prevent further erosion to the edges of a ridge of sandstone.

So now we are hopeful that this compromise will work for all concerned and can be implemented when funds are available.

Ann Davenport

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

Well, about time I hear you say and where have you been. Firstly I apologise for not having been more visible but as is always the case I am still representing you as ratepayers and the phone never seems to remain quiet for long before one issue or another raises it's head.

This past 7 months has been extremely busy not only with regards Council but also personally. I truly believe that most issues have been attended to promptly but not always as soon as some would like.

With 29 months to go I am confident of achieving many things, and feel positive about the future direction Council is taking, although they say a week in politics is a very long time which may or may not unravel my best efforts.

My family and I are moving to our new house this week in Craigmare (where the old horse stables used to be) and the new address is 8 Mark Avenue, Craigmare. The current postal address is P.O. Box 87, Elizabeth 5112. Our telephone number will remain the same 8287 7020. Feel free to call me, drop me a line or even pay me a visit regarding any issue and by the way we don't charge for coffee.

With the festive season upon us once more I would sincerely like to wish both friends and foes, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PS. I have written a letter to Father Christmas requesting he seal all roads and provide residents with anything they would like in 1998, but times must be changing, because he wrote back, saying that I must wait for the next budget allocation. Ho,ho,ho Merry Christmas.

Kind Regards

Matthew, Pauline, Thomas and Kate Hayden

ONE TREE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Hello, my name is Stacey. I go to One Tree Hill Primary School. I really enjoy going to this school. The teachers are so nice. If we are sick my teachers let the children lie down on a pillow until we feel better. One time a lady came to talk about stamps and letters. It was great, we got some stamps, You would be so happy to come to this school. There is always something to do. If you are sitting on the friendship bench and you've got no one to play with, don't worry because someone will be there for you. They will come along and say, do you want to play with us? It's so much fun. There will always be someone there for you and you better believe that because it is true!

By Stacey Nelson.

The Little Prince.

During the last two terms, a large group of people have been practising and perfecting an enchanted play from another world. Directed by Chantel Furlong, one of the kind parents, we had been told we had to have a part in the exciting, the one and only, Little Prince.

First published in Great Britain in 1945, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, The Little Prince story was turned into an entertaining and exciting play by our director herself.

Performances were held at the One Tree Hill Primary School Arts Room on the 11th (two performances) and on the 17th for the community which we hoped loved it.

We hope you attended one of them and enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed acting.

Once again we give all thanks to our wonderful friend and director, Chantal Furlong, and also to the community, students and teachers.

Yours sincerely,

James Justice, Callan Taylor, and Letitia Naismith of One Tree Hill Primary School.

THE CONCERT

Last Saturday it was the One Tree Hill School of Dance concert. It was held on stage at the Shedley Theatre. Mum braided 7 children's hair. Diane is our dance teacher. We had special make up on our faces. I danced in Disco Duck, Walk the Dinosaurs, Please Don't Call Me a Koala Bear, and I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus. My Mum and my Nana do Tap Dancing, and they did two dances on stage at the concert. They wore dresses with tassels for one dance, and sparkling waist coats for the other dance. There were lots of people in the audience that I knew. It was great to have three generations dancing from my family.

By Rebecca Tilly

BLACKTOP AUTO REPAIRS

Blacktop Road, One Tree Hill 5114

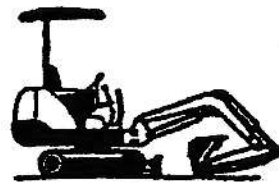
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LOCAL HISTORY NOTES

If you drive down Paines Road which is off Precolumb Road, you will see on the right hand side, the former Precolumb School. Now owned privately, this small school served the One Tree Hill area from around 1855. The school was built by parents in the district on part of "Precolumb Farm" which was owned at the time by John Sampson. The original acre was bought for 5 pounds by William Kelly, George Vennings Harvey and Harry Hamilton Blackham on behalf of a committee of management. At first the school was privately run but was transferred to the Education Department in 1876. The building served as a focal point for the community, serving as a venue for concert celebrations and lodge meetings.

The school closed in 1938 and the pupils moved to the Uley school. There are still local residents in One Tree Hill who attended this school and have many interesting stories to tell of their schooldays there.

(history notes researched by Jill McLatchie)

MARKET REPORT

The pageant may have kept some of the people away from the market this month as trade was steady but quieter than usual. It was good to see a busker this time! The variety of stalls continues to increase. Now we have fish for sale which is a good opportunity to get some fresh fish without all the trouble of fishing for them! The Christmas market is sure to be worth a visit for those Christmas presents and goodies. There may be a few special surprises in store too!

TREES FOR LIFE

One of Trees for Life's main objectives is to put back local vegetation and try to recreate the bush which was cleared. Local species have evolved in these conditions so they have the best defences against local diseases or insects. Some non-local species appear to do well but you often find they are the ones that die prematurely or fall over in a strong wind. Local trees and shrubs help to keep an ecological balance. There are two types of insects and animals: those that feed on native plants and those that prey on the plant feeders. These two types keep a balance between plant damage and plant health which only nature is equipped to do and do well. We need to observe and learn. (from Trees for Life newsletter 1994)

For more information on Trees for Life contact Chris and Mick Adley 8254 9126 branch organisers, Elizabeth/Gawler area.

POET'S CORNER

Rainbow

*Red is the colour of the raging fire.
Orange is the colour of the safe friendly fire.
Yellow is the colour of the hot burning sun.
Green is the colour of the fresh cut grass.
Blue is the colour of nice calm sea.
Indigo is the colour of a storm coming.
Violet is the colour of the nice tinged sky.*

By Christopher Marsh.

Colours of the rainbow

*Red is the sign of love.
Orange means anger to me.
Yellow is the sign of happiness.
Green is the sign of comfort.
Blue is the sign of peace.
Indigo is the sign of war.
Violet is the sign of healing.*

By Kyall Norton

Christmas

C rib	C hrist	C andle
h ay	h olly	h olly
r eindeer	r udolph	r udolph
i vy	i vy	i vy
s tar	s leigh	s anta
t ree	t oys	t insel
m ary	m ary and Joseph	m ary
a ngel	a ngel	a ngel
s tocking	s tars	s tar

By Riley

By Aaron and Zak

By Steven B

SIMON'S PET CORNER

Simon has a thermostat in his fish tank which turns off and on as needed to keep the water at a steady temperature. This is useful in both hot and cold weather though his guppies are able to stand a big range in temperature. He only has one neon tetra but they are expensive at \$2 each. His is looking rather pale, Simon is not sure why. Simon's black male Mollie called 'Jaws' has died-worn out with two wives and a long life! Although all his guppies are inbred, he only has one that is a funny shape.

Simon is very happy because his favourite King pigeon, Little Ripper, has produced a baby with his brown checker hen and the baby is ash red. His racing pigeons are having a rest from racing and breeding too.

Simon has not been able to persuade his female budgie, Pippa to be nice to his male budgie Emerald. So far the results have been disastrous when they have been together. Either Pippa has beaten Emerald up or she has trashed his cage! Simon is going to wait until she starts to build a nest and then try again!

Do you have trouble with crows stealing your chook eggs? This can be a big problem. Friends of Simon's tried making a hot mustard and pepper mix and putting it in an empty shell. Has anyone any other ideas?

Simon found a dehydrated blackbird which flew away. This can be a problem in hot weather so lets all put out water for the birds this summer.

CFS NEWS

Fire Ban Season 1st December, 1997 to 30th April, 1998

It is that time of year again when the fire ban season is here. Please do some bushfire prevention around your own areas by cutting in breaks around your properties, cleaning out gutters clearing undergrowth and overhanging trees around your homes, etc.. Also give some thought to quick access of fire appliances to your properties. Our Brigade's largest fire appliance is approximately 3m wide and 3.5m tall which gives you some idea of the access space required. As in previous years please help us out by writing down registration numbers and dates and times etc. of suspicious vehicles sighted along your road. This has been a tremendous help in the past where a fire has been deliberately lit in a particular area then someone comes forward with a vehicle registration number.

Field Day:

The Para Group recently hosted the Region Field Day at Para Wirra National Park with approximately 60 appliances in attendance for a 12 hour period. The crews participated in numerous practical training activities such as gas cylinder fires, pumping water from the lake, structure fire investigation, etc. The Field Day also enabled the communication and incident control systems to be put in place.

I hope all our members, their families, and everyone in our community have a very merry Christmas, a happy new year and a fire free summer!!!

Dawn Leonard

Administrative Officer

Phone: 8280 7353

Mobile: 0419 806 213

Dr. Alan M. Irving Veterinary Physician & Surgeon

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By Appointment Only

AL-RU Farm
One Tree Hill

HEARD ON THE GRAPEVINE

We have heard on good authority that a nude biker rode through One Tree Hill on a recent hot day so watch out for the streaking motor cyclist!

Justin Lindsell and Helen McBeth are to be married on Christmas Eve. Justin and Helen met ten years ago when they were both 13, at the One Tree Hill Youth Group. Justin is now a civil engineer, and Helen is an intensive care nurse. They will marry in a garden ceremony at Helen's parents home on Frank Barker Road. Some of you will also remember Helen and Justin from the Cricket Club and the CFS. Congratulations and best wishes from us all.

Would you believe it, someone pinched one of the signs which says when the meeting of the Progress Association is. They actually took bolt cutters and cut it off the sign at the end of the township. This was an expense we really didn't need. If any one knows where it is perhaps it could be discreetly returned.

One Tree Hill welcomes Ian and Alison Jones and family to our community. Thanks Mike and Mary Ashford for letting us know about these newcomers.

"HUSBAND "WANTED

Please can anyone help us? Our 8 year old Jersey cow (Betty) is in need of a mate. We do not have the crusher etc. to enable us to artificially inseminate nor the trailer required to get her to a bull!! Is there anyone locally who has a suitable husband, who would like to come and stay for a while on 10 acres to make Betty's life complete. She has calved twice and fostered an orphan with great success. We are, of course, willing to pay for the service.

Please contact Janet on 8280 7426. THANK YOU.

GARDENING NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Vegie mates companion planting

Asparagus likes tomatoes, parsley and basil.

Beans get on well with cucumber, cauli, and cabbage.

Beetroot loves onions.

Carrots like peas, lettuce and leeks.

Celery gets on with beans.

Onions and garlic have an affinity with beetroot, strawberries and tomatoes.

Peas are pals with turnips, radish and beans.

Pumpkin and sweetcorn are winners.

Spinach likes strawberries.

Squash and nasturtiums

Sunflowers and cucumbers

Tomatoes love marigolds.

Happy Gardening!

THANKS FOR DONATIONS!

Kern family

Mr and Mrs K. Chappell

Helen McBeth.

Thank you very much! If anyone needs a receipt please let us know and one can be arranged.

ONE TREE HILL PLAYGROUP

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the One Tree Hill Playgroup!

We have had an exciting and growing year in 1997. The work of the six daily co-ordinators has been invaluable. The increase in our numbers reflects the enjoyment had by both children and carers. We take the opportunity to thank these six ladies - Cheryl, Sue, Deb, Allison, Tracey and Lorraine - as they complete their roles, and we welcome new co-ordinators for 1998.

Thanks go also to the executive committee - Tracey, Vicki and Sally - as they make way for a fresh start and new faces for playgroup next year. A final thanks for all the playgroupers, young and old and in-betweeners, who help make O.T.H. Playgroup the great success it is!

Playgroup returns for 1998, in the same time slots as this year:

Monday, 9.30-11.30 am

Tuesday, 9.30-11.30 am, and

Wednesday, 9.30-11.30 am.

If you are interested in starting next year please feel free to ring and put your name down.

Contact Sally 8280 7683, or Vicki 8280 7452.



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Thurs	9.00 - 7.00
Friday	9.00 - 6.00
Saturday	9.00 - 2.00

ONE TREE HILL UNITING CHURCH M.U.M. GROUP

We have had an informative, entertaining time at our morning teas this year. We thank all of you who have joined us, whether as a presenter or part of the audience, and look forward to continuing our sessions in 1998. We usually break until March, but if you have any suggestions for next year we'd love to hear them. Contact either Sally 8280 7683 or Karen 8280 7011.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed, safe Christmas from the Uniting Church M.U.M. Group.

See you next year!

ROTARY CLUB OF TORRENS VALLEY

Rotary is an organisation of business and professional people united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

This month the club starts its search for an exchange student for the 1999 year. If you are interested in going overseas for 12 months the Rotary way is the way to do it. If you are 17 years old in 1998 you can apply. Applicants should be in the top 30% of students, but enthusiasm could count for more. Although the cost may seem high, like the paying of airfares, this is offset by the fact that you have pocket money and normal living expenses paid by the host Rotary club and the host parents. If you want to enquire more about this opportunity for development, contact our International director or any other member of the club.

You can always talk to our present exchange student Indah of her feelings about living in a country which is different from your own.

International Director:- Ivor McLatchie 08 8280 7214

Rebecca Kennedy has had a wonderful year in Brazil and returns home on the 13th of January 1998.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Rotary Club of Torrens Valley to all in our community.

See you all at the sausage sizzle on Market day.

Any questions about Rotary or requests for assistance should be directed to President Viv or Secretary Ron or our Community Services Director Jim Dahl ph.8280 7284.

Meets: Each Wednesday-7.00pm for 7.30pm.

At: Blacksmith's Inn, One Tree Hill.

Contacts: President Viv Turner, ph 8280 7571

Secretary Ron Harrison, ph 8389 3179.

ONE TREE HILL EQUESTRIAN AND PONY CLUB.

Recent results:-

Congratulations to Carl Wildman for coming second at the North East Riding Club Time Trial on 23rd November at Kersbrook. Also well done to Hayley and Bissett who rode off the lead at her first competition and completed the course. It was disappointing not to see more new members riding on or off lead and having a go on this very beautiful property.

Coming events:-

7th December Dressage school, Pat Hutchens and Show jumping school, Linda Beentjes. Prebooked lessons.

14th December Club Gymkhana and Christmas break up lunch.

Wishing all members a Happy Christmas and Great New Year.

Any enquiries, please contact Helen Duncan, Secretary, ph 8280 7461.

ONE TREE HILL GARDEN CENTRE



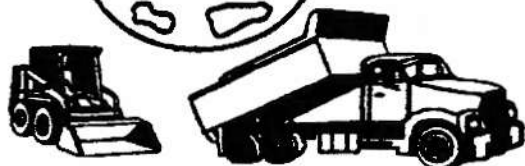
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NORTHERN EARTHWORKS

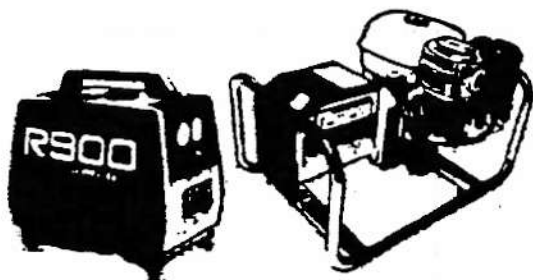


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GENERATOR DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 6th Dec.



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and Pump Service**

Shop 4, One Tree Hill Shopping
Village Blacktop Rd

WILDLIFE UPDATE

"The last little bit from Fauna Rescue"

We would like to thank the many people that have done their little bit for the animals that live in our area.

We would like to thank Andrew for his many trips to our place with greens and bread saved up by the people at his work. Sandie Reid who has a wonderful brother who made fish tanks to house bats and hopping mice. A lot of wonderful people have helped in many ways and we appreciate your help. We are still desperate for aviaries and tables.

"Please" in the holidays, check possums and kangaroos that have been hit. If it is a female just look in the tummy area. Pull the folds of the skin apart, your fingers can open up the pouch and look inside. If you find any joey, keep it warm and get help. Don't forget also in hot weather to leave some water for the animals and bird life.

If you can help us in any way with blankets and old towels, wire or anything that can be used to rescue animals please call us.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and keep safe.

Thank you all.

Ingrid Justice, Fauna Rescue, ph 8280 7614.

BLACKSMITH'S INN SOCIAL CLUB

On December 7th is the big Christmas Party when Father Christmas comes. It starts at 12.00 midday. This is for MEMBERS ONLY. Sorry, but it's not fair for outsiders to come on this day.

PUZZLE CORNER

Which of these is the odd one out?

FOOL, CORNER, CAT, TOM, THUMB, BOY.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Peppermint creams

These are great for Christmas and so simple to make.

Sieve 1 pound of icing sugar into a bowl and add the stiffly beaten whites of two large eggs and one or two teaspoons of peppermint essence, and a touch of green colouring if liked. Mix ingredients to a dough like ball. Roll out on a board using sifted icing sugar on the board to prevent it from sticking. Form into sweets with a small cutter. Leave to dry out on a tray - and then enjoy them!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

For the seventh time in as many months Croucher Smith was up before the local judge on a drunk and disorderly charge.

"I'm at a loss what to do with you, Smith," said the magistrate.

"All you seem to do with your life is drink and get into trouble. Sending you to prison would be a waste of tax payers' money. If I let you off with a fine, will you give me your word you'll get a job and try to settle down?"

"I'll do me best, yer honor", Smith replied.

But two days later, there was Smith back in the same dock again, fronting up before the same judge on the same old charge.

"I thought you were going to get a job?" asked the magistrate.

"I did, yer honor, I got a job ringbarking"

"Oh really? Where?"

"One Tree Hill, yer honor."

(Contributed by Greg from the Blacksmith's Inn)



THE GREAT TREE HILL SHORT STORY COMPETITION



This month our story is the winning story in the
Open Section of our competition.

"The Joker"

by Mary Burrridge, copyright 1997.

William took off his hat, sat back on his heels and wiped the sweat from his brow. He had been working his claim for a month now, but had little success. The Goldfield of 'Teetulpa' was situated over 200 miles north of Adelaide. The first discovery of gold was in October of 1886. It was now December and over 4000 diggers were on the ground. William had worked at the Lady Alice Mine and the Young Australian Mine with his father in 1874, but when his father had died of a heart attack, William had taken his wife Elizabeth and their three children and bought a small property holding, west of the Lady Alice Town called One Tree Hill.

Although he had not made his fortune in the Goldfields, he had been luckier than his other fellow diggers and had saved enough to stock his land with sheep, and over the years they had cleared enough land to grow crops. One Tree Hill was a growing community. A new church had recently been built to replace the aging building that had once served as their place of worship. The local school now had a regular teacher to accommodate the forty children that were now attending. Once a month William and his family attended the local dance to enjoy the companionship of their fellow neighbours. But in October of this year, a bushfire had taken hold at Para Wirra, and many thousands of acres of land and livestock had been lost.

William and Elizabeth were not exempt. They had lost their flock of sheep, along with their prize draughthorse, in that savage fire.

The local community had once again rallied to the aid of their unfortunate neighbours. A donation of food and clothing to the families in need was organized by the church congregation, but William had not enough capital to replace the loss of his stock.

It was for this reason that after 12 years, William had once again turned his hand to the Goldfields. He had left Elizabeth and the children in the care of his long time friends and neighbours, Ted and Amelia Johnston, to try his luck once more, and maybe find enough nuggets to help rebuild his home.

William had already decided that tomorrow he would attempt to sell his claim for 10 shillings and return home to his family.

He picked up his hat and it was then he saw it, protruding through the loose gravel, a nugget like no one had ever seen on the Goldfield. William knew that he could now return to his family and friends of One Tree Hill and repay all those that had helped his family during these unfortunate times. The church roof would need replacing after the fire, and his neighbours would be in need of help, replacing livestock and fencing.

William said a silent prayer and thanked God for his fortunate luck.

FOOTNOTE:- The "Joker" Nugget turned the scale at 30 ounces. The size and shape resembled a man's hand. It was thick at the wrist part and tapered off towards the fingers. It was bought by the Government for the sum of 120 pounds.

FIRE PREVENTION

The purpose of this letter is to advise landowners in the CFS gazetted area of the City of Playford (and that means us, folks!), the need to consider ways and means of reducing the fire hazards on their property prior to the commencement of the fire danger season.

The Country Fires Act 1989 provides that the owners of the land are responsible for all fire prevention and that it be in place at the start of the fire danger season, 1st December 1997. Substantial fines can be imposed for not carrying out that responsibility.

On larger properties, 4 metre fire breaks have been found to be the most effective method of containing wildfires and you are advised to ensure that these fuel breaks are created and maintained around the boundaries of your land.

Under the said act you are also required to reduce all flammable undergrowth around your dwelling to a nominal distance of 20 metres. Trees which overhang buildings must be pruned or lopped.

If your property has **steep inaccessible terrain** then only carry out the work where it is practicable and safe i.e. adjacent to roadsides, along tracks, 20 metres around buildings and sheds.

The clearance of Native vegetation is controlled by the Native Vegetation Council under the Native Vegetation Act, and the section 40 notice does not provide exemption from these controls. Further information is available from the Native Vegetation Management Branch of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

As we fast approach the hottest weeks of summer, it is of concern that farm machinery will be used to action the above.

Please use the following information as a guide to prevent fires: Mow / slash only on cool "dewy" mornings or after rain. Consider other fuel reducing methods such as ploughing, grading, running stock in the areas where fuel loads need to be reduced. If machinery is used, it is law, under the Country Fires Act 1989 to carry some type of extinguishing device (knapsack, or water stored pressure extinguisher) and a rake or spade.

An inspection will be made of all properties in the area and a formal notice (Section 40) under the Act may be forwarded to the Land owner if they have not carried out the necessary work.

The City of Playford is putting a lot of effort into preventing fires and landowners co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 018 806 859.

Andrew Oakley, Fire Prevention Officer, City of Playford.

Follow these simple steps and beat the bushfires

1. Clear away all dried grass, dead leaves and branches etc under trees near your house.
2. Establish broad leaf deciduous trees to the North and West to act as spark shield.
3. Set up sprinklers to keep ground, roof and walls damp. A portable diesel or petrol pump drawing water from your tanks or dam is ideal. It will make you independent of power failure.
4. Maintain a well cut, green lawn around the house, with well spaced trees.
5. A wide gravel or paved drive will provide additional protection.
6. Use metal posts around house, keep wood to a minimum.
7. Ensure roof and roof capping is well sealed to prevent entry of sparks.
8. A low profile roof, securely fixed, is safest. Tiles should be tied down with cyclone clips.
9. Protect windows and vents with wire mesh to prevent sparks entry.
10. Pave around buildings with masonry, slate or concrete.
11. Cover all under floor areas with brick and 'fire stop' board.
12. Check walls for cracks and gaps.
13. Store all your fire fighting equipment in one handy place.
14. Clean out your gutters, consider leafless guttering.
15. Connect large diameter gate valve to your tank.
16. Masonry garden walls stop embers blowing on to house walls and deflect grass fires.
17. Seal your garage or workshop doors. Store flammable fuels well away from the house. Site garage on eastern boundary of the house.
18. In event of fire, put farm animals in bare paddock or large yard.
19. Store firewood away from the house-preferably on eastern side.
20. Ensure all pumps are working well by testing weekly. Your hose should reach every part of the house.

BIRD CARE NEWS

It is baby bird season and at this time of year many babies are found on the ground seemingly without parents and needing help. It is worth noting that many of these babies do not need rescuing. When the babies first leave the nest they are often a bit weak and are found quietly waiting for their parents to come back and feed. If the bird is uninjured and fully feathered, help it onto a low branch and watch to see if the parents return. You can also make a small hole in an ice cream container, line it with tissues, pop the bird in and nail the container as high up in the nearest tree as possible. Baby birds are better off with their parents.

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ONE TREE HILL RURAL WATCH NEWS

DECEMBER 1997

CHEESE AND WINE TASTING EVENING

8th December, 1997 - 7.30 P.M.

Dear Residents

Our October Community meeting was reasonably well attended. Many thanks are extended to Sgt. Peter Jackson of SA Crimestoppers for his attendance.

The next Community meeting, to be held on 8th December 1997, will be a cheese and wine tasting evening. Ian Slater will provide a selection of Australian wines for tasting. This is an ideal opportunity for residents and zone leaders to get together in a slightly less formal atmosphere to discuss the benefits of Rural Watch to the One Tree Hill community.

Please note that a proposal has been put forward by the Playford Council in relation to a new rural property numbering (address) system. A trial exercise will be put in place on Blacktop Road. Any queries can be answered at the December meeting.

Rural Watch gate plates are now available and can be obtained at the December meeting.

Remember that any "suggestions" will be gladly accepted at the General Store and passed on to a member of the Rural Watch committee.

**** With the hot weather upon us please remember to be vigilant and make a note of any vehicles/people acting suspiciously in the area. Arson, as well as burglary is a serious crime which affects the community as a whole. ****

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Neil Smith

Area Co-Ordinator

CHRISTMAS BREAK-INS

During the month of December there is a trend for property offences including break-ins to increase. This may be due to the high rate of Christmas travellers who leave their homes unattended whilst on holidays. If you are intending to go on holidays please let your neighbour know the dates you will be away and if possible a contact number for yourself or relatives who can attend your home address. Remember if someone is looking after your house this may keep your uninvited Christmas guest away. During the Christmas break please be observant for any suspicious people or vehicle in the area and contact the police if necessary.

INCIDENTS IN THE ONE TREE HILL RURAL WATCH AREA FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

October 1997	Humbug Scrub Road, One Tree Hill	
	Larceny of a trailer	\$ 500.00
1/11/97	Burnett Drive, One Tree Hill	
	Motor vehicle broken into and set alight - damage	\$3000.00
7/11/97	Craigmore Road, One Tree Hill	Housebreak and Larceny
	Entry by jemmying sliding door, Electrical & jewellery stolen	\$2400.00

At our next Community meeting we will be having a Wine and Cheese tasting evening. On the evening we have arranged for the Breath Analysis instrument to be present so people can gauge how much alcohol can be consumed before they reach the legal limit of 0.05. I hope there is a good turnout on the evening to support the Rural Watch Program.

Police Co-ordinator
Darren McCUE

Police Attendance Ph 11 444

INTERNET NEWS

Suddenly, sometime last week I discovered Chat groups on the Internet. Chat groups are places where you type in a remark and watch your screen as the answers flood in. Well, the number of replies depends on the number of interneters taking part in the chat. I have found four or five to be very enjoyable. Some of the groups seem to specialise in using language in poor taste, but this group that I came across is for what they call the third age, which in their language is over fifty. Most of the talk is understandable for us ancients and the subjects range in all directions. You can even set up your own chat group and give it a name like "Dog Chat" and people will drop in to see what it is about. To get into the third age chat groups, go to

whop://www.thirdage.com/index.html

(contributed by Ivor McLatchie)

VETERINARY NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Grass seeds

Now we have entered the hot dry months, grass seeds are again prevalent, especially around rural areas. The ears, eyes, nose and feet are some of the common places a grass seed can lodge in a dog or cat. Sudden tilting of the head is a first sign that a grass seed is in the ear. By the time this is noticed, the grass seed has worked its way into the ear canal, where it can only be seen with special equipment. Do not be tempted to put anything into the canal. Prompt removal by your vet is the best treatment to prevent further damage or infection. Under the eyelids, grass seeds can cause pain and make the eye look red and angry. As a general rule, if only one eye is sore, an injury or foreign object should always be suspected. Violent sneezing would indicate a grass seed inhaled up the nose. Again the sooner these cases are seen the better. Grass seed can also penetrate the skin, especially between the toes, in the armpits and through the gums, causing swellings which burst and discharge.

Some simple methods to reduce the chance of problems include: clipping the animals hair short, especially around the ears and toes, and always check your pet for seeds if they have been in long grass, or place cotton wool in their ears beforehand.

Dr Alan M. Irving, Al-Ru Farm

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE CORNER

The odd word out is CORNER. The word TOM can precede all the rest to form a valid compound.(including of course TOM TOM)

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Ph 8280 7666

CHURCH NEWS

Church celebrations at Christmas.

21st December 7.00pm Carols under the Pines (cuppa afterwards)

Christmas Day 8.00am Combined Worship.

From Dec.28th to January 25th inclusive, there will be combined services at 10.30 am. (No 9.00am or 11.00am services during that time)

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SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

All Senior Citizens join me in expressing our sympathy to Dorothy Coventry and family at the passing on of John Coventry, who was a valued member of the Club and the community. His funeral service was held at the One Tree Hill Uniting Church where both the church and hall were filled to capacity with those who knew and respected him.

On a brighter side, we recently celebrated Cora Langs 77th birthday. Cora now resides at the James Martin Village, but still loves to visit the club when it is possible.

On the 21st and 22nd of last month, the club hired a bus and went to Renmark for the Rose Festival. We stayed at the Renmark Hotel and visited many interesting places at Renmark as well as town centres on the way to Renmark. The rose gardens and plantations up there were magnificent. Rustons, in particular, where there are more than 50,000 rose plants, and 4000 varieties in their 12 hectares of planted garden. Afternoon tea at Rustons was provided by Mary Willas, a lady of 80 years plus who donates the proceeds to charity. A very interesting and informative visit was made to "Yandilla Park" where citrus packing was in progress. Other places of interest were the Institute, where there was a large display of cut flowers, and Headings Lookout on the Murray, approximately 15 kms upstream from Renmark.

A number of our members attended the One Tree Hill Primary School on 17th November to see the students performance of the play "The Little Prince". They did an excellent job and deserve congratulations for their effort.

While on praise for efforts, how about congratulations for Margaret Lawrence for her 10 pin bowling effort - 154! Margaret and Reg Lawrence are also to be congratulated as their Golden Wedding Anniversary is to be celebrated before Christmas.

At Barmera we saw some very attractive Independent Living Units, believed to be Council run and Playford Council are assembling details of these and other Council controlled units at Charles Sturt, Marion, and Kersbrook, to enable the Playford Council to adopt a policy applicable to One Tree Hill - unfortunately a waiting game.

Don Needham, President.

QUOTABLE QUIPS

By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.
(Winston Churchill)

