

MAILBOX

Receptions defended

In reply to a very angry ratepayer may I through your mailbox column defend and applaud councils actions in having small receptions for the young local men and women who have excelled themselves at sport last winter.

Firstly council allocates a figure for such functions and it would never be in road funding anyway. Wouldn't you rather see it spent on the locals then on a show for Paul Keating or some of his over paid hierarchy

(they are the ones who cut your handyman funding) to come and to canvas states as well as flaunt their favorite baby, a new flag for the Olympics.

Secondly the cost of these gigantic functions would probably have brought half a load of gutteram sand, compared to the input of probably \$560,000 for the several shire based football clubs.

Congratulations president Don and your fellow councillors on your initiative in doing the public relation exercise.

BERNARD J. THOMPSON
President
Koondrook Football Club.

Appreciation

On behalf of the members of the Kerang Self Help Group of the Alzheimer Society of Victoria we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support we received from the Kerang Community in the sale of our 10th Anniversary Badges. We intend placing information books at Doctors' Surgeries, and the Library.

Thank you Kerang and District.

JOAN MITCHELL,
Co-ordinator,
KARDS.

LETTERS

Please write letters of no more than 300 words.

Shorter letters will receive preference.

All letters should be signed and the writer's name and address should be written clearly.

Telephone numbers should be provided so that letters can be verified.

A letter may be edited for reasons of space or clarity unless the writer specifies that it must be published in full or not at all.

Flood loss grants



Deluge aftermath

Mr Brian Moore watches as firefighters pump water from his property at the corner of Victoria and Ninth streets, Kerang.

THE Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Pat McNamara has authorised the payment of personal hardship grants to persons who have suffered losses in floods in central and north Victoria.

Mr McNamara today designated the floods an emergency justifying the granting of emergency financial assistance to flood victims.

Emergency grants activated by the Department of Health and Community Services can provide immediate assistance to people in urgent need of food, clothing or shelter. Up to \$280 per adult and \$140 per child to a maximum of \$700 per household can be provided.

The temporary Living Expenses Grant and the Re-Establishment Grant are activated by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services or the Premier, and are means tested.

Grants to a maximum of \$140 per adult plus \$70 per child, to a maximum of \$560 per week per household, to a maximum of 26 weeks or \$5600 can be made available. The Government can recover the funds if the recipient recovers through an award of damages or compensation.

The Northern Times, Friday, October 8, 1993 - PAGE 17

VFF flood assessment

THE Victorian Farmers' Federation has called for a review of the state's flood warning system after central and north-east farmers suffered heavy losses caused by freak rains this week.

"There appears to be very little warning for farmers of imminent flooding in many areas of the state and the federation plans to work closely with Government to improve warning procedures," VFF president, Mr Bill Bodman said today.

"It will be some days or even weeks before the devastation can be properly assessed but early indications are flood damage to residential areas will be coupled with considerable losses in agriculture and its in-

fracture," Mr Bodman said.

Farmers have not only measured losses in drowned stock but also on damage to fencing, bridges, irrigation equipment and pasture, he said.

Rain has also affected farmers as far west as Boort, where tomato crops destined for processing have been decimated by local flooding, Mr Bodman said.

"Without doubt State and Federal Government assistance will be required to get devastated farmers back on their feet once the floodwater have dropped. The VFF will speak with relevant Ministers to ensure farmers' problems are adequately addressed," he said.

SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORT

THE Minister for Social Security, Mr Peter Baldwin said yesterday that departmental staff were making sure payments and services were still getting through to clients in flood-ravaged Victoria despite the difficult circumstances.

"Extra staff, including social workers, are operating in the flood affected areas to make sure that the needs of the communities are being met," said Mr Baldwin.

"They are providing support and information about Social Security

payments and are working closely with the Victorian Department of Health and Community Services."

Mr Baldwin pointed out that some people affected by the floods may be entitled to Special Benefit.

People in the flood stricken areas who need help form DSS should ring the Social Security Teleservice Centre on 13 2468. For information in languages other than English they should ring the Multilingual Telephone Information service on 13 1202.

* URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION

Call Ambulance on 11440